DUDLEY
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DECEMBER, 29, 2011
15p when sold

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PUB BOSS ANGRY AT LOOS-ING CASH

A DUDLEY landlord is fed up because a constant stream of drivers and shoppers are taking advantage by popping into his pub to spend a penny – without even buying a pint.

By Louise Jew

Landlord Alan Davies

Licensee Alan Davies says he is having to fork out an extra £100 a week in cleaning and loo roll costs since Dudley Council closed the public toilets next to his pub, the Red Lion, Abbey Road, Lower Gornal.

He thinks the council should give him a discount on his business rates as compensation.

The public convenience next to the Red Lion was closed earlier this year because Dudley Council says it needed costly repairs.

But Mr Davies says, ever since, around 20 people a day, including drivers from the nearby bus station, lorry drivers and local shoppers come into his pub just to use the toilet.

He has arranged for his cleaner to make two more visits a day to tackle the toilets and says that, together with extra cleaning products and loo roll, it is costing him £100 a week.

"People troop in just to spend a penny – and don't even buy a pint," said Mr Davies, aged 45.

"I feel sorry for the people who are caught short, particularly pensioners, but I think the council should make a concession on my rates.

"Besides this pub, I also run another Red Lion in Wordsley and the Woodman Inn in Gornal, so I pay around £2,000 a month in business rates and I think they should knock some off that if they are expecting the community to use my toilets.

"But the council has refused my request."

The council closed eight public conveniences in June to save £150,000 a year – but the one next to the Red Lion shut several months earlier than the others.

Investment

Dudley's cabinet member responsible for toilets, Councillor Patrick Harley, said: "The Gornal block had major maintenance issues which would have cost the taxpayer thousands of pounds to repair and required significant investment to make it compliant for disabled users.

"If a private business is unhappy with the public using their facilities we would suggest they remind people facilities are for customers only in order to capitalise on any additional footfall," added Councillor Harley.

3,000 are opposed to market changing

ALMOST 3,000 people have signed a petition against plans for a £6 million transformation of Dudley's historic market place.

Traders and shoppers have backed a campaign demanding a rethink on the proposals.

Under the plans the market place would be revamped and new stalls with canopies installed. The number of stalls would be reduced from 74 pitches

Repair work would also be carried out on the fountain while the Duncan Edwards statue would be moved.

Among those objecting to the proposed revamp is David Flavell, 50, whose family has run a fruit and veg stall at Dudley Market for 200 years. He doesn't believe that modernising the market will encourage more shoppers. He said: "I don't think this will work."

Councillor Malcolm Davis, who is behind the petition, has now secured a meeting between council bosses and traders which will take place next month.

He said: "It's a traditional market which is still doing well despite being surrounded by empty shops. Why mess with it? I have got almost 3,000 names on the petition." Dudley Council spokeswoman Clare Marshall confirmed a meeting will take place in January.

Lower speed limit plans

PLANS for new 20 mph speed limits outside schools in Dudley are set to go out for consultation early next year. Borough bosses are considering introducing the limit outside some schools in a move to improve safety for children.

The scheme, which is already being trialled outside three schools – Olive Hill Primary and Newfield Park Primary, Halesowen, and Crestwood School, Kingswinford – was first discussed last year.

Donations create festive cheer for wards

With Eaton Automotive's donations are, from left, play specialist Ruth Russell, fundraiser Steve Ford, Ian Hingley and Jean Kettley, and play specialist Linda Taylor

A HAMPER, toys, bikes and £400 cash were among the many Christmas presents donated to youngsters at a Black Country hospital by a local firm wanting to spread some festive cheer.

Eaton Automotive in Brierley Hill gave the goodies to the children's ward at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital to be handed out to the youngsters who would be spending Christmas on the wards.

And the cash will go the Wishing Well fund, set up by volunteer Steve Ford to help young patients fulfill their dreams.

In total, the firm donated two bikes, a digital camera, cuddly toys, a hamper and some chocolate selection boxes.

Some of the items were to be used in a raffle on the ward to help raise extra money.

Mr Ford said: "They have got a really good community spirit and I'm so grateful to them for this."

Steve Ford set up the Russells Hall Hospital Wishing Well charity and the 51-year-old from Kingswinford has made it his mission to encourage youngsters to think of wacky activities they would like to try which he then tries to arrange for them.

Staff at the hospital have also recently benefited from other donations which were given to bring a little Christmas cheer to the ill and those who care for them.

100 cases of C-diff reported at hospital

ALMOST 100 cases of superbug C-diff have been reported at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital since April. Staff are now working to reduce numbers, having missed their own target of no more than 77 cases in 2011-12.

Chief executive Paula Clark said there had been 99 post-48 hour C-diff cases at the site in the past nine months. But she added staff had reported the number of outbreaks was beginning to fall. "We have continuously monitored all cases and put measures in place," she said.

"Some of the actions we have taken include reviewing each case to establish if there is a specific reason for the increase and investing in a hydrogen peroxide machine for deep cleaning," Ms Clark added.

Regular staff briefings on the superbug are held to ensure staff are up-to-date on measures to be taken to help prevent infection.

The hospital trust has also called upon external experts to get advice and assess whether it is taking the right action to drive down the number of cases. The trust is remaining with an amber-red risk rating by Monitor, the independent regulator of Foundation Trusts because of the high number of cases.

It had previously received the rating due to concerns by the Care Quality Commission.

Six fined for early waste

SIX RESIDENTS have been handed £75 fines and 700 more sent warning letters for putting out their rubbish too early in Dudley.

Dudley Council bosses have vowed to crack down on people putting out their waste early and obstructing footpaths with bin bags.

The authority has a rule that rubbish should not be left out before 7.30pm on the night before collection. The clampdown was launched in September last year.

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DUDLEY thechronicle
Queen Street
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WV1 1ES
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
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Budget store planned for centre site

A BUDGET store is among plans for Dudley town centre after a supermarket proposal on the site was scrapped by developers.

Regeneration chief councillor Angus Adams today said the site off Tower Street and Castle Street – which was originally earmarked for a large supermarket leading to the council buying up land in the area – was deemed too small. Instead they have now revealed developers have said the site could be turned into a budget store with a car park nearby.

It comes after council chiefs revealed they now plan to build a supermarket on the Cavendish House site.

Rejected

Councillor Adams said: "The plans were rejected because the footprint for the size of the store was deemed too small for the requirements of the developer for a large supermarket.

"That was when the Cavendish House site was pursued. I believe the developer is now looking at a budget-type store now but I don't know any more at this stage."

Council spokeswoman Clare Marshall added: "Advice from retail market experts has been to pursue the car park on the rear of the site alongside delivering all the other proposed town centre improvements. "The site would then be ideally suited for a developer to bring forward several major store units which would be of a size and dimension required by modern retailers."

She said decisions on a developers or occupiers for the project had not yet been confirmed.

Cavendish House, in Trindle Road, which has stood empty since 2008 will be knocked down.

Rioter facing jail term for stealing computer

A rioter from Dudley is facing being locked up after admitting stealing a laptop during the summer looting and violence in a Black Country city centre.

by Shaun Jepson

Robert Thoane

Robert Thoane, of Dudley, told a court he found the computer discarded on a street while he was in Wolverhampton city centre as thugs ran amok in August.

Just a few hours after the disorder, the 20-year-old was seen running with the laptop under his arm in Walsall with a gang of other youths.

At Wolverhampton Magistrates Court, Thoane admitted theft by finding and was released on bail to appear before the city's crown court to be sentenced in the new year.

Prosecutor Mr Roger Bleazard told last week's hearing that Thoane, of Hollyhock Road, was arrested after widespread disorder on August 9.

"He was seen by officers running through Walsall some hours after the rioting in Wolverhampton," he said.

"He was asked whether he had stolen it and he said it had already been taken as part of the riots and that he had acquired it."

The court heard Thoane had admitted being in the city centre during the chaos. He intended to keep the laptop, said Mr Bleazard.

District Judge Michael Wheeler committed the case to the crown court after deciding his powers of sentencing were not strong enough.

He said guidelines for punishment range from between one and four years in prison.

Scores of shops in Wolverhampton were hit by rioters during the disorder. So far, more than 700 people have been arrested in connection with the trouble. More than 160 of those have been charged and dealt with.

More 50 officers are still involved with the riot investigation.

Keen on Woolies

A FORMER Woolworth's store that has stood empty in Kidderminster for three years could be taken over by a furniture firm whose town premises were destroyed by a huge fire. Levines had to be knocked down when the blaze ripped through its store and the neighbouring British Heart Foundation charity shop.

Area manager Simon Levine said they were looking at Woolworth's in Worcester Street and TJ Hughes in Vicar Street, which shut down six months ago. He said: "We are looking at those sites in particular but nothing has been signed yet. We want to remain in Kidderminster."

Sophie's songs spread cheer

Sophie Harris who performed for residents and staff at New Bradley Hall

A YOUNG singer brought some early Christmas cheer to residents and staff at a closure-threatened Dudley care home.

Sophie Harris, aged 12, of Pensnett, performed music from artists ranging from Frank Sinatra to Bruno Mars at New Bradley Hall, Kingswinford.

She was dressed in a Santa hat for her show which also included traditional Christmas songs. It was the second time the Kingswinford School pupil had performed at the care home this year.

New Bradley Hall has been earmarked for closure but council bosses have promised to re-think the proposals following a campaign by residents and their families.

No sales planned for closed loo sites

TOILET blocks which were closed earlier this year in a Dudley to save cash look set to remain unused for the foreseeable future.

Dudley Council chiefs have admitted there are "limited opportunities" to sell them.

Borough bosses shut eight public toilets earlier this year in a bid to save £150,000.

Among the sites which went were The Cross, Kingswinford and Cottage Street, Brierley Hill.

The move, which prompted concern among some residents worried they would face a long trip to find an alternative public convenience, left five toilet blocks in town centres in the borough.

Council chiefs said although they are not actively marketing the sites they would be interested in any proposals.

Matt Williams, assistant director for environmental management, said: "We appreciate there are limited opportunities available.

"However, we would be interested in any viable redevelopment of these facilities."

Hospice is given boost

THE FREEMASONS have donated more than £2,000 to a Black Country hospice.

Richard Goddard, provincial grandmaster for Worcestershire, presented a cheque for £2,120 to Mary Stevens Hospice, Stourbridge to help towards patient care.

A total of £11,200 has been donated to five hospices across the area from the Freemasons' grand charity, with more than £600,000 being given to adults and children's hospices across England and Wales.

All donations aim to support the hospices in treating the terminally ill.

It's panto time

A THEATRE group is getting ready to stage its third annual pantomime. Limelight Productions will stage Peter Pan at Kidderminster's Rose Theatre nighty from Thursday until January 7 at 7pm with matinees on December 29, 30, January 2, 4 and 7 at 2pm. Call 01562 743745 tickets.

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Clubbers warned to book taxis

REVELLERS are being urged to book taxis and agree a fare before travelling home to prevent disputes over the festive period.

Police have been meeting with Dudley's Taxi Watch Partnership to discuss issues that crop up over Christmas.

Sgt Steve Gordon, based at Stourbridge police station, said: "As a partnership we meet every month to discuss issues relating to the taxi industry and how driver safety across the borough can be increased.

"The first aim for us was to build on relationships between drivers and the police and I can happily say that this has happened."

Police say drivers often fall victim to passengers who do not agree a fair or run off without making payment, and sometimes arguments can happen over fares.

Taxi Watch chairman Shahzad Saleem said: "It is important that we work together to raise awareness and ensure the safety of our private hire and taxi drivers across the Dudley borough."

Sgt Gordon added: "Dudley police will not tolerate abuse or violence against our drivers."

The Taxi Watch Partnership in Dudley has been running since 2010.

Cashing in on old cans

SISTER recycling firms in the Black Country will be busy in the new year processing aluminium drinks cans sold over the festive season.

Mason Metals, Woods Lane, Brierley Hill and Halesowen Metals, Vernon Road, Blackheath, are regional collectors for Europe's largest aluminium can recycler Novellis.In the summer Halesowen Metals received about 100,000 cans from V festival party goers

Cans sold by waste firms, clubs, charities and the public are processed and baled by the firms.

Solicitors' songs

A GROUP of solicitors have won a singing contest held to raise cash for a Midland hospice.

Thursfields came top in the Last Choir Standing event at Kidderminster Town Hall, which generated £1,400 for the town's Kemp Hospice. Their medley of songs from Les Miserables won the judges over.

Fuel prices keep down festive-time visits

HIGH fuel and transport costs mean people will have been making fewer visits to family and friends this Christmas, a motoring group is claiming.

An estimated 4.25 million Britons are expected to travel abroad for the holiday period.

But a survey of those staying in the UK suggested 22 per cent would not see as many loved ones as normal due to high petrol prices.

Nineteen per cent said the cost of bus and rail travel meant they were not making trips, while 16 per cent said expensive air fares were a barrier to travel. Miranda Schunke, spokesperson for breakdown company Green Flag, which carried out the survey, said: "Spiralling fuel and travel costs are set to have a real impact on some friends and families getting together over Christmas.

Pockets

"The festive season burns a big enough hole in family pockets as it is, so it's no surprise that public transport and fuel costs have tipped the balance for many festive celebrations this year."

The AA has said it expects up to 18 million cars will take to the roads over the holiday period.

The Highways Agency, which is responsible for England's motorways and major A-roads, said it had planned to complete more than 500 miles of roadworks before Christmas, while a further 60 miles will be suspended until January 3.

The 4.25 million figure for those Britons spending Christmas and New Year overseas covers the period from December 16 to January 3 and compares with under four million for the festive period in 2010-11.

An estimated 165,000 of those will be flying from Birmingham.

Passengers using Heathrow over the festive period were expected to take 6,000 tons of luggage each day – equivalent to the weight of 20 jumbo jets.

Heathrow's most popular destinations this Christmas are New York, Dubai, Dublin, Amsterdam and Paris.

Popular destinations for Britons travelling abroad include the Canary Islands, Cuba and Mexico.

Robber who punched victim repeatedly is sent to prison

A robber who punched his victim repeatedly before taking his wallet in a "gratuitous attack" has been handed a three year prison sentence.

by Tim Spiers

Daniel Dalton, aged 21, punched Joshua Hunt in the face before raining further blows on him as his victim lay helpless on the floor.

Worcester Crown Court heard Dalton, of Drake Crescent, Kidderminster, had carried out the attack in Warndon in Worcester on October 16 this year to impress a girl he was with at the time.

The court was told Dalton had demanded Mr Hunt hand over his mobile phone but had been told by his victim he did not have one.

Dalton instead took his wallet containing a driving licence and keys which he later dropped down a drain when he discovered it had no money in it.

Dalton pleaded guilty to a charge of robbery when he appeared before the court.

He also admitted a charge of burglary at an address at Drake Crescent, Kidderminster, on December 5 this year where he stole a lap top computer after breaking a kitchen window to gain access.

Dalton also asked for another burglary at an empty property in Truro Drive, Kidderminster, on December 2 to also be taken into account.

The court heard the property was vacant while renovation was taking place and he had taken a copper tank and piping which he had lad later sold on.

He also asked for a charge of criminal damage to be taken into account by the court.

Smashed

The hearing was told he had smashed a living room window at a home in Glastonbury Close, Kidderminster, where someone was sleeping at the time.

Dalton was sentenced to three years imprisonment for the robbery and 18 months for the lap top burglary to run concurrently.

Mr Jason Aris, defending, said: "He has asked for the one burglary matter and the criminal damage to be taken into account of his own accord.

"This shows a maturity and that he wants to draw a line under his past and start behaving like an adult in the future."

What a good dog group

A DOG agility group has raised £2,700 for charities through a year of donations and events.

The Dogs R Us club, based at Ashwood Nurseries, Kingswinford, has now generated more than £20,000 since being formed eight years ago. The cash will go to Evesham Greyhound and Lurcher Rescue, Forest Dog Rescue, Independent Tibetan Terrier Rescue, the Border Collie Trust, Happy Staffie Rescue and Kelpie Rescue. A donation was also made to the Alzheimer's Society.

Fizzy Fizzogs get ready for a new tour

Black Country comedy group The Fizzogs – from left, Sue Hawkins, Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls – who have lined up a new show for 2012.

THE BLACK COUNTRY'S finest are going back on the road for another comedy tour of fun and frolics.

Fizzog Productions, otherwise known as trio Jacky Fellows, Sue Hawkins and Deb Nicholls, will embark on a new tour in February.

The 50 Per Cent Funnier Comedy Tour will feature many of the inimitable personalitiesfro, previous sell-out shows, including The Ode Folk, Mags and Barb, the School Kids, Wayne Kerr and compere Barbara Nice (aka TV's Janice Connolly).

And new to February's show is the Burlesque Dance Troup, said to blend some Black Country grit with exotic, flirty and feisty choreography.

As part of the tour The Fizzogs will perform at Netherton Arts Centre on February 10 and 17, as well as at Newhampton Arts Centre on February 24 and 25.

Tickets cost £15 and are available from the two venues.

Visit www.fizzogtheatre.co.uk for more information.

NEWS in brief

Three boys admit to crime spree

THREE teenagers joined in a four-hour crime spree which included pulling driver from their vehicles in broad daylight and robbing people in the street, a court heard. An 81-year-old driver was one of the victims on September 28.

A 14-year-old from Dudley and a 15-year-old from Pensnett admitted four robberies. Another 15-year-old from Brierley Hill pleaded guilty to a robbery. The case at Wolverhampton Crown Court was adjourned for reports.

Appeal to help stray animals

A BLACK Country animal hospital is urging residents to donate food for stray cats and dogs over the festive period.

Rosewood Animal Hospital, Birmingham New Road, Coseley, stages the collection every year to support charities in the area.

People are asked to donate pet food along with other items such as blankets which are then passed on to a number of animal charities.

Villagers raise cash for chairs

VILLAGERS have raised more than £2,000 to buy new chairs for the parish hall.

The 56-year-old building in Hartlebury, near Kidderminster, is being modernised with a new kitchen, windows and central heating but there was no cash available to replace the chairs. So a Sponsor-a-Chair campaign was held and within days, cash came from more than 80 families.

Waste scheme is re-launched

A garden waste collection scheme run for residents in Wyre Forest will relaunch after a winter break in March.

It costs householders £31 for nine months of fortnightly collections. More than 1,200 residents in the district have joined the scheme. It has helped the local authority recycle 350 tons this year.

Free car parking

SHOPPERS can park in council-run car parks for free over Christmas in Wyre Forest. In Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley parking is free after 4pm until January 2.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

I TAKE my hat off to the reader who has collected no fewer than 53 peculiar phrases used by weather forecasters over the past couple of years, We all need our hobbies. First out of the collection:

* "Mildly offensive showers."
* "A seedbed for more snow."
* "Nuggets of brightness."

THE big thing in 2012 will be televisions, music systems and other electronic gizmos which are operated by voice or hand signal, without the need for remote controls.

As Auntie Beeb puts it: "Controlling the TV without a remote would eliminate the need to look for it." Quite so. But have you noticed how the further technology advances, and the less we have to remember anything, the worse our memories get?

JOHN Masefield's Sea-Fever must be one of the most parodied of all poems. This version, fit for any cold, wet winter's day, comes from a reader:

"I must down to the café again
For a cup of tea and a bun
And all I ask
Is the toast is hot
And the butter's on the run."

AND lo, the seasons turn. The turkey vanishes, the sprouts repeat and Christmastide gives way to Thomsontide, the festival of booking summer holidays. Over the Xmas break I happened upon a DVD I was given this time last year, a compilation of my father's family cine films from 1961 to 1967. I had never watched it before.

Great God, we had some awful hols. In flickering 8mm, three small Rhodes boys, wrapped in anoraks against the chill of an English heatwave, clamber morosely over the rocks at Woolacombe, pausing occasionally to whack each other with long, leathery fronds of seaweed. When people tell you they made their own entertainment in the old days, this is what they mean.

The high point of that holiday was watching Hawker Hunters flying over to bomb the Torrey Canyon (ask your grandfather).

Ten years after Woolacombe, we discovered a place called Menorca and never looked back.

BRITAIN'S oldest spiritualist newspaper, the Psychic News, is back in business following its closure in July 2010. All together, now: We didn't see that coming.

MEANWHILE, the communal gathering places in the southern China village of Wukan are filled with protesters raging against Communist party corruption and land seizures.

It is a reminder of the rarely-seen but bitter divisions in China between rich and poor, party and people, city and country.

While any number of observers tell us that China will be the world superpower of the 21st century, the really smart observers always add the words, "if it can hold together."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Shock over keep-fit club's closure

A KINGSWINFORD gym closed overnight – and staff, who have lost their jobs, say that they were given the news by text messages.

Members arriving at the "ladies only" Miss-Fits, were upset when they were greeted by a notice on the door saying it had closed due to the "economic situation".

One said that staff were in tears as they arrived to collect their personal possessions last week, saying that they had been told about the closure in a text message. Another Miss-Fits gym, run by the same owner under a different business name, in Lower High Street, Stourbridge, continues to operate.

A notice on the door of the gym in Market Street, Kingswinford, believed to have around 300 members and five staff, from owner Alison Little, said: "It is with much regret that Miss-Fits Kingswinford has ceased to trade with immediate effect. As I am sure you are aware, the current economic situation is causing many businesses to close and we sadly find ourselves in the same position.

"Although Miss-Fits Stourbridge is a totally separate business they are happy to honour all current Miss-Fits Kingswinford memberships." The message added that a letter and voucher were in the post.

Kingswinford Miss-Fits member Nicola Attwell, aged 40, of Pensnett, said she was "shocked". Sylvia James, 55, of Kingswinford, said: "I paid my membership up front in June so am worried about whether I can get any of that back." Alison Little was unavailable for contact.

Closures consultation deadline is extended

JUST under 160 people have so far filled in a questionnaire about controversial plans to shut a string of police stations across the West Midlands overnight.

Helen Cartwright

The force wants to shut 12 stations – including Wednesfield, Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Bloxwich – between 6 and 10pm and redeploy staff to contact centres or front line duties.

The proposal is part of the battle by West Midlands Police to save £126 million over the next four years in a bid to manage government cuts in funding.

A public consultation into the plans was due to come to an end by December 31 but bosses have now extended the time people have to put forward their views until January 15.

New figures released by the force show 10 people have emailed to have their say and 1,410 people have visited the website to read about the plans while 157 have filled in the questionnaire about access to services.

Two protest petitions with a total of nearly 4,000 signatures urging a rethink have also been handed into police chiefs at a meeting into the plans.

Bosses said once the consultation is finished they will consider all feedback balanced against the results of their analysis of demand levels in order to be able to make a final decision.

Officials say a number of people have raised concerns that the change in opening hours will mean the closure of the station which they say is not the case.

Changing

Assistant Chief Constable Sharon Rowe said: "We want to reassure people that nothing is changing to where officers work from and that these proposed changes will not impact on the way we work with local communities."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has handed in a 2,000-strong petition, pleading for Dudley police station to be spared. Another petition with 1,900 signatures calling for Bloxwich police station to stay open 24 hours a day and supported by a letter from Walsall North MP David Winnick has also been presented to officers.

Pub reopens after refit

A PUB in Kidderminster has reopened after undergoing a £190,000 refit. The cash was pumped into the Red Man pub on Blackwell Street by the owners Punch Taverns.

New manager Chris Irving said: "The pub looks amazing. The difference the investment has made is phenomenal. We're still getting our music fans come in but we're getting a lot of families in now as well as older couples."

A number of rooms have been opened up into one large open space, a central bar has replaced two smaller ones and a large outside area has been created. The pub now has its dining area in a refurbished conservatory.

Disco dancers get dazzling

Chelsea Rist, 12, and Aimee Rowe, five, from the Touch of Class dance school

TWO YOUNG dancers have collected honours at a national disco dancing contest on the hallowed dance floor of Blackpool's Tower Ballroom.

Chelsea Rist, aged 12, and five-year-old Amiee Rowe, both from Dudley, scored success in their categories at the Disco Kid competition. Both practise at the Touch of Class dance school run by Anna Jones at the Cherry Tree Centre, in Russells Hall Road, Dudley. Aimee won the under six category while Chelsea made the final of the under-14s section out of 200 children from across the country and as far afield as Norway. Principal Anna Jones said: "They have both done so well and we are very proud.

"We are very pleased to be flying the flag for Dudley in these competitions."

Medic is trapped in her car by crash

A PARAMEDIC had to be freed from her rapid response car following a crash with another car while on the way to a job.

She suffered minor injuries in the smash at the junction of Comberton Road and Chester Road North, Kidderminster, last week.

The rapid response vehicle is believed to have been on blue lights and sirens at the time of the collision.

It was on its way to a medical incident at a house in the area at the time.

An ambulance was already en route to the same job and that crew was able to deal with the situation.

The injured paramedic, who was driving the rapid response vehicle, was trapped in the car and fire crews were called to help free her.

Police closed off part of the carriageway while the rescue took place.

West Midlands Ambulance Service said an investigation into the cause of the smash had been launched.

Chasing the hit dream

A KIDDERMINSTER indie band is planning to release a song every month next year in a bid to have their first hit single.

The Amateurs have spent recent months working in the studio recording new material.

After performing to 1,000 people at Artsfest, Birmingham, in September the group are also planning a series of gigs for early next year.

For a preview of their first track We Get Out, visit the website at www.theamateurs.co.uk

Plan for homes

FORMER garden land in Dudley which has become a dumping ground is set to be transformed into two houses. An application has been submitted for the site on Pool Street, Woodsetton. As well as the homes, it would include a drive, gates and parking.

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Beware of bogus callers

RESIDENTS across Dudley are being urged to beware of bogus callers over the festive period.

Dudley Council's home safety service has reminded people to be extra cautious when inviting strangers into their homes over the festive season, as distraction burglaries often increase at this time of year.

The service, which provides practical home safety advice and support to vulnerable people, is working in partnership with West Midlands Police to offer tips.

Councillor David Vickers, cabinet member for adult and community services said: "Distraction burglars and bogus callers aim to deceive and steal from the most vulnerable members of our community.

"If we arm ourselves, our friends and our neighbours, with information on how to outsmart these individuals they might think twice before targeting homes in Dudley borough."

The service and it's partners provide door access equipment, chain locks, window locks and other safety devices to help vulnerable adults feel safer.

The council has hotline – 01384 812045 – for reporting suspicious incidents.

Chase man attacked

A MAN was attacked in Kidderminster when he chased after two other men he thought had just smashed a window.

The incident happened in Park Street. After the window was broken a man in his 30s, who was a visitor to the address, chased after the pair. He followed them to flats in Park Court, just off Park Street, where he was attacked and suffered significant head and facial injuries. He was taken to hospital.

Two men arrested on suspicion of assault were released on bail.

Merry Hill praise

THE MERRY Hill Shopping Centre at Brierley Hill has been ranked eighth in the latest index of the UK's top indoor shops complexes. Bluewater, Kent, was top in the Trevor Wood Associates table for the fourth quarter of 2012. Second was the Metro Centre, Gateshead, with Merry Hill owner Westfield's Stratford City, third.

Play equipment to be replaced at theft site

NEW EQUIPMENT to replace swings, slides and a climbing wall stolen by metal thieves from a children's play area in the Black Country is being fitted over the Christmas holidays, council chiefs have announced.

The children's play equipment was cut down by thieves who struck on August 30 at the play area at The Leasowes in Halesowen.

Two swings, two slides, a climbing wall and a chain bridge were taken in total during the Bank Holiday raid at the site which is just off Mucklow Hill.

Borough bosses believe the equipment may have been taken to be sold on for scrap.

But at the time council bosses vowed to replace the equipment and workmen are now on site to install the new equipment.

It is hoped the installation will be completed during the school break.

Features

A new climbing frame, which features a bar slide, is being put in on the play area at the park off Mucklow Hill, while the swings are also being repaired.

Bosses say the new equipment has been chosen due to its "robust design" and say as there are no large areas of stainless steel, it will have little value to thieves.

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "The sickening theft in August saddened everybody to think that people could stoop so low as to deprive children of a play area.

"We are delighted we have been able to find the funds to replace the equipment and hope youngsters in the area will be able to enjoy it this Christmas and for many years to come."

The cost of replacing the equipment was around £15,000 which was found from insurance and existing council budgets.

Councillor Patrick Harley, cabinet member for transportation with responsibility for greencare, added: "We are confident of opening the new play area during the Christmas school holidays.

"We are currently finishing off the installation and weather permitting it will be open for youngsters to enjoy in the very near future."

Joining up was best thing I've done – modest marine

WHEN Robert Jacomb visited a recruitment centre for the Marines he only intended to pick up a few leaflets but was so impressed he signed up straight away.

by Lee Watton

The former labourer was just a few weeks shy of his 18th birthday and wondering what to do with his life when he was inspired by a friend to look into joining the armed forces.

And Robert, now 20, who has just returned from his first tour of duty in Afghanistan, says it was the "best decision" he had ever made.

It is also one which has helped to save the lives of not only Robert's own platoon, J Company 42 Commando, but also members of other teams serving abroad.

He has been assigned one of the toughest jobs in the forces – a point man responsible for leading patrols while scouring the ground with a metal detector to hunt for improvised explosive devices.

And earlier this year Robert, from Gornal Wood, found his skills put to the ultimate test when members of another patrol were hit by an explosive device.

His platoon was just 100 metres away and he quickly and calmly located a safe path so his team could offer assistance.

Two men were killed in the explosion but the platoon was able to help the survivors and evacuate them to safety by helicopter.

And 14 hours later he was called into action again after another patrol was hit.

This time Robert led his own team safely through a minefield to rescue members of the platoon who had been hurt.

The former pupil of Red Hall Primary and Ellowes Hall schools, Gornal, has now received an award honouring his bravery.

Surprise

The modest marine says many people are surprised when he tells them his job.

"When I was at school I wasn't particularly into sports or anything physical," he said.

"When I tell my former teachers what I do now they are always surprised.

"They remember me as this shy young man. I was always more into things like motocross."

His mother Lynn says his family was proud of his achievements and his brother Tom, 16, now plans to follow in his footsteps.

Reliving the glory day

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers's first ever game in the Football League will be relived next month. A video of the home clash against Torquay in August 2000 will be shown in full on January 30 at 7pm. It will be followed by a question and answer session with some former players. The historic 2-0 victory was played in front of a crowd of more than 5,000 at Aggborough. The event at the Aggborough Suite has been organised by the Kidderminster Harriers Independent Supporters Club. Tickets are £3. Visit www.khist.org.uk

It's a cracker! Festive fun for brothers

Brothers Rory and Samuel Hartland, from Kingswinford, with Christmas crackers made at the session

CHILDREN got into the Christmas spirit by making their own crackers at Kingswinford Library.

The youngsters used cardboard tubes, crepe paper and glitter to create their own designs. Library assistant Jane Handley printed some jokes off the internet for them to include in the crackers.

Staff are now planning a new year craft session, where children can make their own gold and silver crowns on New Year's Eve from 10am to 11am.

Mrs Handley said: "The children all enjoyed themselves. It was good to get them in the mood for Christmas. They all took library books out as well so it was great to encourage them to read."

NEWS in brief

Pensioner, 80, pulled from river

FIREFIGHTERS rescued a pensioner from the River Severn after he fell in at Stourport Marina. Crews from Stourport and Kidderminster were called to Sandy Lane last week to help the unnamed 80-year-old man.

Kidderminster firefighter Jimmy Papworth, said they laid ladders across the river and hauled the man out. "He was treated by the ambulance crew but as far we know he was fine," he added.

Students sign pledge on abuse

ALMOST 1,200 students in Wyre Forest and Hagley have signed a pledge not to allow domestic abuse to become part of their life.

Police Community Support Officer Vanessa Halford has been visiting high schools asking students to make the pledge: These Hands Are Not For Hurting. They agreed not be part of the small minority who commit domestic abuse and signed a scroll.

Students were able to find out more about what domestic abuse and how to get help.

Arson tragedy probe delayed

POLICE investigating a suspected arson attack at that left a man dead have started a full forensic examination.

Andrew Heath, 52, died after the fire at his flat in Chedworth Close, Worcester, on December 14.

Det Chief Insp Paul Williamson said it had taken longer because the fire was very severe.

Familes urged into the country

FAMILIES are being urged to get out and about and take a trip to the Worcestershire countryside in the new year.

Worcestershire County Council has created a section on its website to encourage all those thinking about taking a cycle through the area, including advice for parents on cycling with children. Details: www. worcestershire.gov.uk/cycling

Animals rescued

TWO dogs and three sheep were rescued after becoming trapped on a bank on the River Teme, near Tenbury Wells, last week.

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Seve Ballesteros

Elisabeth Sladen

Ted Lowe

Trevor Bannister

Amy Winehouse

Peter Falk

'Enry's 'Ammer gone forever

THIS YEAR we said goodbye to one of Britian's biggest celebrities and certainly a larger than life character Sir Jimmy Savile. He was known to generations for his large cigars, Jim'll Fix It and Top of the Pops appearances and of course his tireless charity work.

Acclaimed actor Pete Postlethwaite who starred in massive hit films such Brassed Off, Aliens and Jurassic Park also died this year.

Among the many shocks were musicians Gerry Rafferty and Amy Winehouse and from the sporting arena Seve Ballesteros. This year we also said goodbye to Hollywood legends Elizabeth Taylor and Jane Russell.

Also gone from the world of screen and theatre are Elisabeth Sladen who gained fame as Dr Who's assistant starring alongside Tom Baker; Trevor Bannister whose most famous role was as Mr Lucas in Are You Being Served? and controversial film director Ken Russell.

Sadly one of the co-creators of arguably the greatest British sitcom David Croft also died. He will be best remembered for the wonderful Dad's Army. Also dying this year were veteran actresses Susannah York and Maria Schneider who Both gained fame for controversial sexual roles, York in the Killing of Sister George and Schneider for Last Tango In Paris alongside film legend Marlon Brando.

Once again from the world of sport we lost ex-England footballer Nat Lofthouse, snooker commentator Ted Lowe and of course heavyweight boxing legend Our 'enry – Sir Henry Cooper along with cricketing legend Basil Doliveira.

Danny Farragher

Robert Robinson

David Croft

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Pupils keep nativity tradition

A GROUP of parents rallied together to stage a nativity play for their children to perform after a Sedgley school pulled the plug on the show.

They were left disappointed when Alder Coppice School said it was not going ahead with the Christmas tradition for Years 1 and 2 for the first time this year.

So they came together to organise their own with the help of St John's Methodist Church, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton. Seventeen youngsters aged from five to seven took part in the performance.

It was held at the church on Saturday, December 17.They had just one week to learn their lines, songs and learn to play instruments .

But they took to the stage in front of a audience of more than 60 people to bring the Christmas story to life.

Sedgley mother Claire Neale, whose six-year-old daughter Maya, took part said it had gone well. "It was really nice. It was lovely to be able to watch them perform," she said.

Mrs Neale said many parents had felt "let down" by the school's decision.

Shame

"There was nothing organised for Years 1 and 2 that the parents could come and watch which is a great shame. We feel it is a really important for the children to take part in a nativity at this time of year as it teaches them the real meaning of Christmas.

"The children increase their self confidence too, by standing in front of an audience and speaking. Most of all it's a way for parents and grandparents to share in something with the children that is magical, special and heart warming.

"These special times when the children are young, must be captured. The nativity play is a historical tradition that is too important to let go."

When contacted by the press, the school refused to comment on the decision not to hold the nativity for Years 1 and 2.

A spokeswoman, who did not wish to be named, confirmed nativities had been staged for the nursery and reception classes at the school. She said there had also been a Christmas production staged for older pupils.

Tom Watson as Joseph and Annie Gregory as Mary, both aged six, with other youngsters

Coping with the stress of festivities

A DUDLEY charity has issued some tips to beat the anxieties and stress brought on by the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season.

But for those who find it all just too much, Dudley Mind, which supports people with mental health problems, also has a self-help group for people who are suffering with anxiety.

Tips include:

- Practise deep breathing, which can reduce anxiety and increase relaxation.
- Do your visits, outings or shopping with companions who know your difficulties and can help you .
- Do any shopping a little at a time – don't try to do a whole list at once. And if you can, do some of your shopping online.
- Make schedules, so that you can limit the time you are in crowded places. But don't avoid crowds – dealing with them is part of life.
- Practising some of your coping strategies first will make it easier to put them to use in stressful situations.

Leader warns over tax freeze

DUDLEY Council will be forced to save an additional £2.8 million from its future budget if it opts to freeze council tax payments next year.

Councils nationwide can take up the offer of a grant from the Government equivalent to a 2.5 per cent council tax increase if they freeze the levy for residents.

Council leader, Councillor Les Jones, said freezing the council tax could mean bigger increases in 2013-14 but said no firm decision had yet been taken. Big cuts for 2013-14 have already been agreed.

The aim is to save a total of £35 million by that date.

Councillor Jones warned the authority would be forced to find additional savings of £2.8 million within that budget to balance the books.

"The reality is that we have still not made up our mind whether we will take up the one-year Government grant," he said.

Interest

"We know that people need a bit of help at the moment. We have to make sure it is in the best long-term interest of the borough."

But Labour opposition leader, Councillor David Sparks, went further, calling the Government's offer a "con trick".

"The problem with Eric Pickles' (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) offer is that it is for one year only and means that unless the Government come forward with the same offer next year Dudley taxpayers would have to pay double the bill," he said.

"It is a typical Eric Pickles con trick. It is significant that even the Conservative council is suspicious of what a Conservative government is planning."

Wyre Forest council leaders have already announced that they will be taking up the Government's offer.

Festivities blow in

On the piano is Sally Richards with pupils, from left, Oliver Preece, Molly Evers-Taylor and Lily Bloomfield

YOUNGSTERS were full of Christmas cheer as they belted out carols at their annual concert.

More than 100 pupils from Amblecote Primary School took to the stage for the performance The Key Stage 2 students, who are aged seven to 11, sang a range of carols and also performed poems.

There was also music from the school choir as well as a rendition of Jingle Bells in French by some of the older pupils.

Teacher Max Keen said the event, which is held every year at the school in School Drive, went well. Parents and governors were invited in to watch the performances, which had been organised by teacher Claire Bowen.

The school recently celebrated receiving a rating of "good" from Ofsted following an inspection at the site.

Record collection by Tablers' sleigh round

A RECORD sum of more than £2,500 has been raised for charity by Stourbridge and Brierley Hill Round Table's Santa sleigh collection. Members said they were delighted.

The £2,561 will be donated to local charity Rollercoasters, which helps children from the Dudley borough who have multiple disabilities and additional physical and learning disabilities.

Group chairman Dan Saunders said everyone was pleased with the support given in the tough economic times. "The 2012 sleigh ride has again been a lot of fun and we are so grateful to everyone for your generous support and fantastic welcome on the doorstep," he said.

"We would also like to thank the players and parents of Oldswinford Football Club who came out and collected with us on many of the collections."

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Ho, ho, ho . . . a tradtional Father Christmas

How Victorians started our love of festive cards

Over Christmas almost every household will be festooned with cards. Here are some early examples and the history behind them.

MEMORY LANE

by Fiona Carding

WE HOPE over Christmas you spared a thought for the poor old British postie who, come rain, shine or snow will be groaning under the weight of an estimated two billion items.

According to the Royal Mail, the UK sent 750 million Christmas cards last year.

The custom of sending seasonal greetings can be traced back to the Chinese, who sent messages of goodwill to celebrate the New Year.

The early Egyptians also sent greetings on papyrus scrolls and in Pagan times good luck charms were exchanged at the winter solstice.

In the Middle Ages, European wood engravers produced prints with religious themes.

The British love affair with the Greetings card began in 1843 when Sir Henry Cole commissioned the world's first Christmas card. Cole, the first director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, wanted something festive to send to his family and friends and asked British painter and member of the Royal Academy, John Callcott Horsley to design a Christmas card.

Clare Weston, curator for domestic and cultural life at Black Country Living Museum said: "Horsley produced 1,000 Christmas cards and sold them for one shilling each." The idea was a great success but it was not until almost 20 years later that this quintessentially English custom really caught on.

By the 1850s, the card had been transformed from a relatively expensive, handmade and hand-delivered gift to a popular and affordable means of communication, due largely to advances in printing and production. After 1870 sending Christmas cards became more popular with the introduction of the halfpenny stamp.

According to Michelle Higgs in her book Christmas Cards, Victorians used them "as ways of ending strife, cementing friendship and strengthening family and neighbourhood ties". A recent study by the Royal Mail shows we are not so different. Royal Mail's Stephen Agar said: "Sending a physical Christmas card is a great way of reminding friends and family how important they are to you."

Clare Weston said: "Many designs were similar to what we have now with nativity and snow scenes and robins featuring in earlier cards whilst homemade cards were popular after the First World War.

"Some designs, however, if sent today would bemuse the recipient.

"One card in our reference collection features a spoon design with the message beneath 'A spoon wanted. May you succeed in finding it and spend a happy Christmas.' Spooning, in Edwardian times, refers to courting."

Skating to a Merry Christmas in all their finery

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Uni experts help Jacob ride to sporting success

Cyclist Jacob James gets expert help from the uni's principal sports and exercise science lecturer Louise Martin

AN AMBITIOUS young Worcestershire cyclist is receiving sports science support as he tries to qualify for the World Championships next year.

The University of Worcester is helping Jacob James who is competing in the National Cyclo-Cross Trophy Series.

The uni's Athlete Support Programme provides sport science support for two or three promising athletes from the West Midlands and Worcestershire. Jacob hopes to qualify for the World Championships in Belgium in January, and to help achieve that applied to a programme run by the University's Motion and Performance Centre (MPC).

The MPC is supporting 17-year-old Jacob, of Pedmore, Stourbridge, with performance testing and training advice for 12 months. Jacob said: "I have been cycling since I was nine when I went to the local track with a friend and we got hooked.

"I am in the junior category at national cyclo-cross and am going in to the elite category next season."

Jacob wants to become a PE teacher eventually.

To apply for similar help, athletes must be 16-24 and be competing at or close to national level.

Jenny Macconnell, of the MPC, said: "Jacob is very talented and we hope we will help him achieve his goal of qualifying for the World Championships in January."

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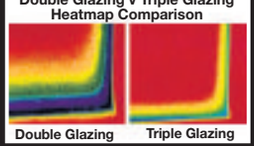

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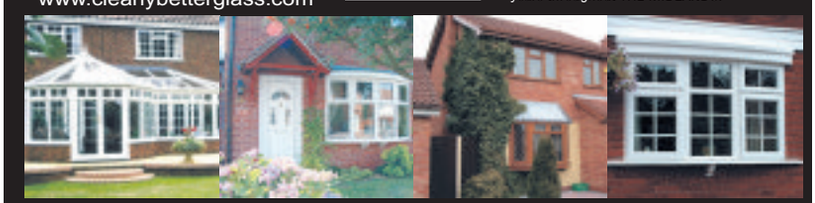

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Angry at insurance company policies

WITH regards to a recent letter about insurance companies and their policies.

I wonder how many other motorists feel they are being ripped off, by motor insurance companies? Recently my insurance came up for renewal and despite being over 50, an ex HGV and PSV driver also having nine year's plus, no claims bonus, I found my premium had risen by £400 from last year.

We bought our daughter a Ford Ka last year for £1,500, she insured it with the same company.

Unfortunately someone ran into the rear of her vehicle writing it off, the insurance company offered her £650 compensation, but retained £200 (excess), but she still has to pay the premium till the end of its term, you've guessed it £450, which leaves no cash and no car or – heads I win, tails you lose.

I'm starting to understand why so many people are uninsured.

I think it is time the different motoring organisations, such as the AA and RAC, stepped in and tried to keep both fuel and insurance costs down, or haven't these people realised, the less vehicles on the road, the less people needed to run insurance offices and fuel depots, the banks are suffering, it could be their turn next.

TONY DAVIES
Lower Gornal
Dudley

Borrowers have a responsibility

IT HAS just been announced more control is going to be put in place in regard to mortgages. However, control has been in existence since mortgages started.

By this I mean the purchaser has always had control as it is they who must decide if repayments are affordable.

Houses should not be seen as investment but as a place in which to live. Where people have to move ie. because a job has moved, does change the situation slightly, but too many people have jumped on the bandwagon of moving more upmarket and as a consequence of this, lenders have relaxed their rules to accommodate this.

However, the choice must still come down to the borrower. If the amount to be repaid is not affordable and a decision to move for the sake of moving is made, then surely it is right to decline the loan. Building Societies and other lenders are in business to make money, not to act as charitable institutions. This continuing quest to make money by buying and selling of houses as an investment has fuelled the inflation of house prices meaning the lowest paid may never get on the property ladder.

One only has to look at the greed in regard to land prices when parcels of land are sold for development. This continuing upward spiral is a fool's paradise and Joe public is the fool. Many houses have been pulled down so new estates of "affordable housing" could be built. However, it was proved some years ago that old and dilapidated houses could be brought up to date far more cheaply than demolition.

Everything is done in the name of profit. If we are honest, we must each look at ourselves to see why this situation has occurred, not blame others.

LEN HALES
Halesowen Road

Dock the strike pay this year not next

RE: COUNCIL staff strikers, won't be docked a day's pay until January 2012.

I find it difficult to believe council managers were unable to find out which council employees were going on strike on November 30, by the time staff timesheets were handed into payroll, for December payday. Managers knew when the strike was to be held. I feel if a member of staff was on strike on November 30, they should have had it docked from their December payday.

All staff knew this would affect their December pay day, so to avoid a day's pay docket. If you could not afford to lose a day's pay because it is Christmas, one should not have gone on strike in the first place. Simple really.

ROBERT PARSONS
Cradley Heath

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

It's not nice to see you any more Brucie

IN MANY ways I have to agree with the sentiments of B Parsons regarding the Royal Variety performance but to remotely suggest the resurrection of Bruce Forsyth gives me a cold shiver. How he still gets away with his 1950 clichés and jokes is a mystery.

He should have hung up his book of gags many moons ago and not being satisfied with his exorbitant fee for hosting Strictly Come Dancing, he has now foisted upon us a Christmas CD.

Imagine, some unsuspecting grandparent discovering a copy of this in their Christmas stocking, what a thought. Although Brucie is a reasonable pianist, to suggest he was ever a good singer is a contradiction in terms.

On the other hand, Tony Bennett was a formidable performer in the 1960s but sadly at the age of 85 I think that the magic is beginning to wane and I am surprised this was the best top of the bill performer the producers could come up with.

ROY SLIMM
Dudley

Too many shops in town sell the booze

THIS week Mary Portas published her findings on the state of our declining town centre shops. It was grim reading.

However, Dudley Council has tried to help out by granting yet another alcohol permit to a new outlet in Wolverhampton Street.

If the licensing office was to check it now means that there are now no less than five off-licences in the same street, selling cut price booze all in staggering distance.

Maybe this is a new tourist ploy, when we enter Dudley from Wombourne or Wolverhampton could we be seeing "the winos" of Wolverhampton Street' instead of the Wombles of Wimbledon. Will the DY1 postcode be synonymous with the liver transplant?

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thechronicle

Festival's invitation to look back in Vintage style

The festival celebrates the best of British design, and people in Worcestershire are invited to get involved

PEOPLE in Worcestershire are being urged to take part in a festival which celebrates the best of British creativity from the 1920s to the 1980s.

Designers Wayne and Gerardine Hemingway are moving the Vintage festival from London to Northamptonshire for 2012. The festival focuses on fashion, art, design, style and music, and the couple want people local business and community groups to get involved. Anything from hairdressers, tea rooms, B&Bs, to dance groups and collectors, could join in the show on July 13-15 at Boughton House.

Mr Hemingway said: "By moving to Northamptonshire we've made it accessible for the rest of the country."

Tickets are already on sale for Vintage 2012 at www.vintagefestival.com

Plea to help foil thieves

ROAD users are being put at risk by thefts of manhole covers, Worcestershire County Council bosses say.

More than 500 manhole and gully covers have been stolen this year in the county exposing drivers, cyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians to the danger of a serious accident.

Councillor John Smith, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport, said: "This is a totally irresponsible crime which is putting the lives of road users at risk.

"It is also costing the council thousands of pounds. If we are paying out to replace manhole covers, that is cash we can't spend on improving our roads."

The latest warning follows a spate of thefts in Worcestershire, with more than 110 manhole covers stolen this month. People are being encouraged to keep an eye out for thieves turning up in vans and posing as roadside maintenance workers.

The county's highways team has been replacing the stolen covers with others which are more difficult to remove. The estimated cost of making the replacements is £85,000.

Residents are being encouraged to help beat the thieves by alerting the police immediately by calling 999 if they see anyone acting suspiciously.

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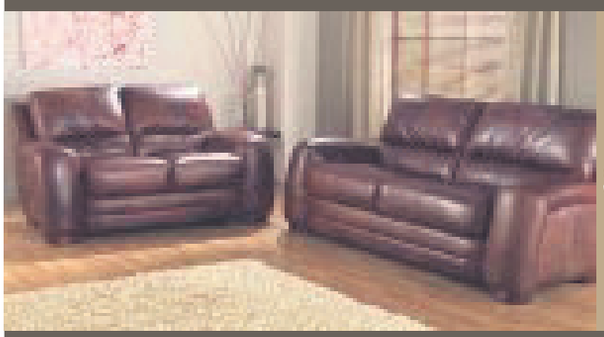

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thechronicle

Theatre group is put in the frame by TV's Michael

Michael Collie helps actors from the Side by Side Theatre Company as they film a segment for their new play

MEMBERS of a learning disability theatre group had expert help when they filmed part of their new production.

Side by Side Theatre Company is preparing for its annual show, Dream On, which will be performed in June.

Two videos will be shown at the beginning and end, the first showing a TV reporter interviewing celebrities.

Group patron Michael Collie, a presenter on BBC Midlands Today, was called in to give his opinion and help train actors to work with cameras.

He first attended a rehearsal to offer advice on camera angles and how to speak to the camera, before offering to be on set for the real thing, at Stourbridge Town Hall.

Chris Male, who plays the part of the interviewer, said he was thrilled to be directed by Michael, and artistic director Sue Wallin said: "He's always willing to help and we're very grateful to him."

Dream On is based on A Midsummer Night's Dream and, as well as a two-hour performance next June, a 10-minute snippet will be performed during the Royal Shakespeare Company's Open Stages Project in Stratford next March.

The project will see members working with RSC professionals.

Side by Side formed in 1997 and has gone on to win numerous awards. Visit www.sidebysidetheatrecompanystourbridge.co.uk for more information.

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Ram-raid hits computer shop

COMPUTER games and DVDs were among the haul which was taken during a ram raid at Blockbuster in Stourport High Street.

Thieves used a white Peugeot Boxer dropside lorry to back into the front display window of the store, completely smashing it before getting in and raiding the shop stealing video games and DVDs.

Two of the raiders, who were wearing dark clothing, then took wheelie bins inside the store and started loading them up with the stolen goods.

Only one of the wheelie bins was taken from the scene as the raiders drove off the wrong way down the High Street, which is a one-way street.

They were heading towards Areley Kings.

The raid happened early on December 20.

More than 100 computer games were later recovered where they had been dumped at Larford Lane, Astley, about two miles from Stourport.

It is believed the thieves sorted through the stolen goods before transferring to another vehicle.

They then abandoned the raid truck in Pearl Lane, about half a mile away from Larford Lane. It had been stolen the previous day from Shirley, Solihull.

Junction

The wheelie bins had been taken earlier from Areley Common Road and rubbish from one of them was found emptied at the junction with Hermitage Way.

Pc Lee Wycherley, who is investigating, said: "We will be carrying out house-to-house inquiries in the area to see if anyone saw or heard anything connected with this.

"We urgently need to speak to anyone who may have noticed suspicious activity in the area, saw any vehicles in Larford Lane in unusual circumstances, or saw the white flatbed lorry – registration BG5 8OPN – being driven into or away from Stourport.

"A resident called us after hearing the window being smashed at Blockbuster and we would also like to hear from anyone else who may have been disturbed and who could have seen any part of the incident."

Any witnesses or anyone with information about the raid can contact Pc Wycherley can be contacted on 0300 333 3000, quoting 32-S-201211.

Heritage trains steam to record with Santa trips

MORE THAN 200,000 people have so far taken a trip on the Severn Valley Railway this year, new figures show.

And more than 30,000 seats have been sold for the special Santa-themed trips.

They have been a sell-out with all the places on the pre-Christmas luncheon and dining trains, as well as the Christmas carol trains, being booked.

It is the first time bosses at the steam heritage line, from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth, can remember that happening.

Services manager David Mee said: "We haven't hit figures like these at any previous Christmas this century – and probably for a very long time before that.

"It's usually the case that our first Santa trains in early December are slow to sell and the last ones in the late afternoons generally have a few spare seats. But this year every single seat was snapped up – for the last three weeks, we've had no tickets left to sell – it's been amazing.

"The statistics simply reinforce our belief in two things – firstly, when it comes to seeing Santa, nothing can compete with the nostalgic atmosphere of a live steam train to take you there. And secondly, even when the chips are down and family budgets are tightly stretched, people will sacrifice many things – but not their children's enjoyment at Christmas."

Bosses said they had already beaten the planned passenger figure of 205,000 for the year, and said with the eight days of festive trains, the final figure could exceed 213,000.

Show that sparkles

Glass artist Charlotte Hughes-Martin at the All I want for Christmas exhibition

THE BLACK Country's Glass Quarter has been sparkling with a festive display of jewellery and ceramics at the Red House Glass Cone, Wordsley.

Resident artists have been hard at work producing a range of creations for the All I want for Christmas event.

A collection of cut and contemporary studio glass and work is one of the main features of the event by the cone's creative tenants known as The Made @ The Cone Collective. Many of the exhibits are on sale for people wanting to pick up last minute presents. Glassmakers will also be holding demonstrations at the tourist attraction, off Camp Hill.

Councillor David Stanley, said: "The glassblowing demonstrations at the cone are always really interesting and a lot fun with the artists making everything from glass Daleks to Christmas tree baubles."

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thechronicle REVIEWS

Portillo sets out for more trips through rail history

Great British Railway Journeys – Series 2

Once again the former politician, turned presenter, Michael Portillo picks up his 1840 Bradshaw's Guide and heads off around Britain using his book like a Victorian satnav.

In this round of five journeys Portillo heads to the far northern Scottish Isle of Skye, travels through the Midlands and Wales to the peninsula of Holyhead, traverses the flat lands of Norfolk, finds his way through the North East of England and finally ends up travelling the southern regions of the country from London through Kent to end his run in Hastings.

Portillo with his endearing and not entirely relaxed in front of the camera manner uses the guide and the remnant of the railways to explore the history, culture and evolution of Britain.

With the help, once again, of breathtaking scenery and fantastic aerial filming Portillo opens up Britain and its Victorian history like a pop up picture book.

There are myriad gems among this delightful series such as when he reads out the address to a haggis in arguably the worst Scottish ever broadcast on TV. His journeys take him to the birthplace of the Commando regiment in a remote area of Scotland; to a chemical weapons factory in Rhydmwyn which was "the most secret location in the world" during the Second World War and then on to the almost spooky revelation of Thomas Telford building his profile into the Ironbridge in Shropshire. He turns his hand to trying to make hand raised pork pies in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire and creating specialist floor tiles for the houses of parliament.

Portillo shows just how much is accessible through the railways and what real treasures sometimes lie on our doorsteps should we only take the trouble to hop aboard and take a look. GBRJ II harkens back to the golden age of BBC documentaries along with the wonderfully quaint British Railway Films which if you are of a certain age will be remembered fondly.

Portillo's enthusiasm for rail travel always comes to the fore and throughout he repeatedly pays homage to the past on, which so much of modern society is built, without a hint of dullness or tedium.

This series along with the first should be a must for all railway enthusiasts and anyone who has any interest in Britain at all. **Great British Railway Journeys 2 is a five disc set and released January 9. Cert E.**

Boyle's on guard in dark comedy

The Guard

"I can't figure out whether you are really smart or really dumb" is how the FBI agent sums up the enigma which is Sergeant Gerry Boyle of the Galway Garda, wonderfully played by Brendan Gleeson in this dark and sometimes cringeworthy gem of an Irish film.

Boyle is a policeman who follows his own code, which is highly questionable at the very least. He goes about his duties on the west coast of Ireland employing his grizzled and intolerant manner along with a subversive and offensive wit and a highly colourful way of speaking.

Boyle's life revolves around his dying mother and occasionally paying for prostitutes but he is drawn into the world of major drug trafficking by the arrival of a black, FBI agent Wendall Everett, played by Don Cheadle.

With years of experience and an understanding of the local criminals Boyle has little interest in international drug gangs however, the more he tries to keep his distance the more he gets drawn into the dealings of the gang and the police corruption they are exploiting.

As the body count rises and he realises almost everyone around him is an eejit Boyle decides it's time he took matters into his own hands and deal with the traffickers using his unsubtle methods, with the reluctant help of Everett. As they move High Noon-like to the violent climax Boyle shows how justice is dealt out Galway style, leaving the viewer to puzzle over the fate of the anti-hero, although all the clues are there.

There are some truly dark comic moments one of which is Boyle passing on the drug dealers' arms to a member of the IRA and where Boyle's caustic manner reduces the seasoned runner of the paramilitary group to a blithering apologetic heap for asking him stupid questions.

The Guard, Cert 15 is released Jan 16, cert 15. Special features include Behind the Scenes featurette, outtakes and deleted and extended scenes.

Danny Farragher

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Nuisance gang sparks a crackdown at shops site

A POLICE crackdown has been launched on boy racers who have been using a Kidderminster shopping centre car park to meet up in the evenings and causing a nuisance.

Officers say concerns have been raised by the public about the noisy group which has also been blamed for littering the Weavers Wharf car park.

Officers from West Mercia Police held a joint operation with colleagues from VOSA – the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, Wyre Forest District Council and Weavers Wharf management.

The operation was held between 6pm and 10pm on two nights recently and saw VOSA officers inspecting vehicles. In total they issued nine prohibition notices requiring defects to be rectified. Problems included defective tyres, brake lights, and headlights, windows which were too heavily tinted and illegal number plates with letters incorrectly formed so they were difficult to read.

Weavers Wharf management also issued a banning notice. More operations are now in the pipeline.

Pc Andy Forbes of West Mercia Police said Weavers Wharf was attracting boy racers who were doing wheel spins and handbrake turns. He said: "There were some concerns about boy racers causing nuisance, anti social behaviour and litter on the car park.

"We want people to be encouraged to visit Weavers Wharf or the town centre in general in the evenings. We will therefore be carrying out more of these joint operations in the future.

Charlotte is guided to the top

Charlotte Brooks with Baroness Smith and Chief Guide Gill Slocombe at the ceremony

A YOUNG woman from the Black Country has shown she is leading the way after receiving Girlguiding UK's top accolade, the coveted Queen's Guide Award.

Wheelchair bound 23-year-old Charlotte Brooks, a learning support assistant, was presented with the honour by Baroness Smith of Basildon – herself a former Brownie – at a special ceremony held at the House of Lords in London.

Charlotte, from Sedgley, is leader of 1st Sedgley Rainbows and 9th Sedgley Guides.

Her achievements include completing her pack holiday licence – a residential qualification which allows her to take groups of younger girls on overnight trips away from home.

She has also competed in a series of equestrian events with the Riding for the Disabled Association.

She said: "In order to complete my Queen's Guide award I organised disability-themed evenings at guides and rainbows as part of the community action.

"It helped me realise how many questions children had about this topic they had been too scared to ask.

"I've been asked by a few members of staff at work to explain to the pupils what it is like to be a person with a disability and how they could help them.

Disabilities

"This has made me realise I may know what it's like to use a wheelchair but I needed to help them understand less visible disabilities.

"Guiding has given me so many opportunities to push myself and has helped me become more confident in my own abilities – as well as giving me experiences which have helped me gain a job," she added.

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Blaize shows talent

Teenage singer Blaize Hill, who attends the Coseley School and has got through the first round of the Britain's Got Talent auditions

A TEENAGE singer from the Black Country struck the right chord at the Britain's Got Talent auditions with a tune close to his heart.

Blaize Hill who attends The Coseley School, made it through the first round of the competition after impressing the show's production team in Birmingham.

The 13-year-old sang I Miss You by Miley Cyrus which he sang at his grandfather's funeral. He will now get the chance to sing again before the talent contest's panel of celebrity judges next year.

Blaize, who is in Year 9, said: "I feel very proud that I've made it through the auditions to Britain's Got Talent. It's an very important song to me and my family and I hope to make my grandfather proud."

Deputy headteacher Kirsty Westhead-Jones said: "We were pleasantly surprised to hear about his singing. We think he has done brilliantly."

Friend set up group to support ME sufferers

TWO friends have announced plans to set up a support group for sufferers of ME in Dudley.

Polly Bowen and Vivien de Vere want to hear from people with Myalgic Encephalopathy – known as ME or diagnosed as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. They are keen to speak with any carers and friends of sufferers so they can gauge the level of support for meetings.

Miss Bowen, of Kingswinford, who has been suffering from the illness for 20 years, said: "ME is a devastating and often misunderstood condition that keeps children away from school and adults out of work.

"There's no support group in this area and we'd like to hear from people interested in joining so that can be changed.

For further information call Polly on 01384 274079 or Vivien on 07967 843353 or email vivien.devere@yahoo.co.uk

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thechronicle BOOKS

When the Gunners were shot down by Saddlers

WALSALL 2 Arsenal 0 – it's a scoreline that looks as improbable today as it did in 1933. Such a result then, as now, would shock the footballing world. And it did.

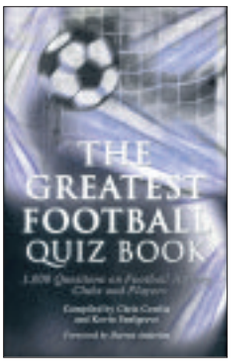
Now, the game is featured in a Mirror publication which takes a nostalgic look at a century of classic matches.

Those Were The Games, available at £18.99, looks back at those historic, headline-defining clashes. And it isn't just the Saddlers' memorable cup triumph over the Gunners that features.

In fact, the book opens with Wolves 1 Sunderland 0 from November 1903. The significance? It was Alf Common's last game as a Sunderland player before a transfer to neighbours Middlesbrough that saw him become the first £1,000 player. Villa's 7-5 defeat at Newcastle in 1928 – a game played in blizzard conditions – and the 4-2 win over Manchester City in 1932, which saw the Villans record their record 128th goal in a season, also feature.

Other games – and the stories behind them – include the Matthews Final of 1953 and will have the football aficionado gripped for hours.

Column inches are afforded to the first televised match in 1937, the Mighty Magyars' shock win at Wembley, Tottenham winning the double, the England v West Germany World Cup final, Hereford's giant-killing over Newcastle, Nottingham Forest's European triumph and the Crazy Gang lifting the cup.



The answer for quiz buffs

HE was the answer to the question: "Which former England player was nicknamed 'Sicknote'?"

Now Darren Anderton has put his given his seal of approval to The Greatest Football Quiz Book.

Compiled by Chris Cowlin and Kevin Snelgrove, the former Wolves and Blues winger writes the foreword to the book, which features 1,000 questions on the history of the game, on clubs and on players.

"This book is an excellent way to check up on all those important facts and figures from recent football history. There really is something for everyone," Anderton writes.

Featured categories include the first ever Premier League season, FA Cup winners and players' nicknames. There is even a section on Anderton himself.

There are questions dedicated to Wolves, Blues, Villa and Albion. For example, do you know how many games Derek Parkin played for wolves? Or what was Fred Morris the first Albion player to do in 1919/20?

Like all quiz books, this can keep fans occupied for hours and is the perfect way to test your knowledge of your favourite topic or club.

As Anderton himself puts it: "Whether you are just starting out on your football journey or are a lifelong supporter of the beautiful game, all football fans should own a copy of this book."

The Greatest Football Quiz Book is priced at £9.99. **Mark Shipp**

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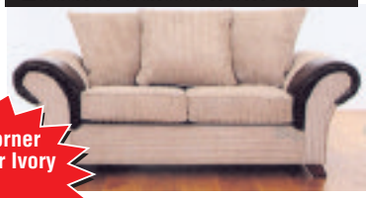

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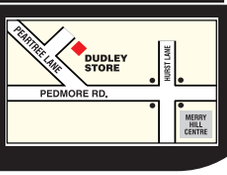

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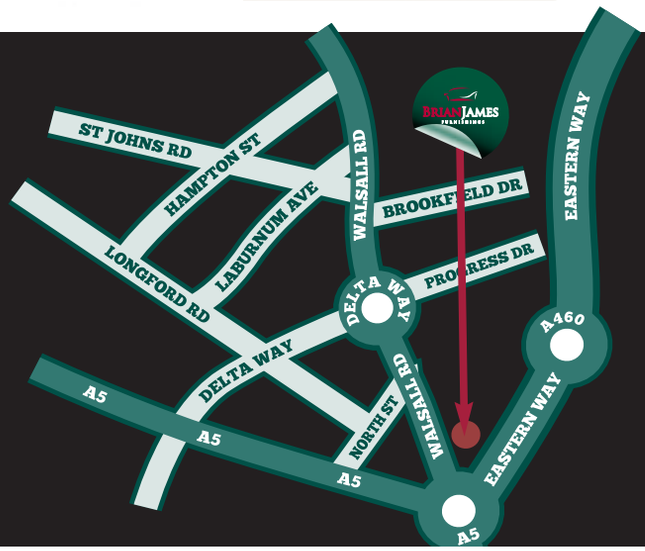

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There's hope for the silent sufferers

It's hard to imagine after losing natural teeth things could ever be quite the same again.

Denture wearers for too long have often tolerated a catalogue of unresolved problems from poor stabilisation, where prosthetics move on the gums, to an inability to eat a healthy diet.

Added to the physical challenges are the carefully hidden embarrassing moments and the restrictions of being able to live life impulsively. These issues are further compounded for some by an emotionally corrosive inability to smile feely.

Denturist Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS (Eng), who heads the team at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley, says: "For some, losing teeth is life changing and not for the better."

But he is keen to send out a message of hope to the silent sufferers with four major treatment models now available at his clinic aimed at reversing "an untold catalogue of misfortunes" and restoring a warm and engaging smile.

Added to the comprehensive clinical toolbox of solutions – which includes traditional dentures; a cleverly designed suction denture which is held in place by tiny diaphragms creating a vacuum between the gums and teeth; and implant retained dentures – is a system known as All-on-4.

In this feature we take a snapshot of each procedure and in accessible language explain the clinical options available from Mr Burchell and his team.

Transformations

And coming soon, the clever teeth you don't have to take out to clean . . .

REMOVABLE DENTURES

ARE they real, or are they false? With cutting-edge technology it's hard to know the difference between natural teeth and clever dentures.

Clinic principal Steve Burchell, whose work has attracted interest from as far as away as Spain, the Isle of Skye, Eastbourne and North Wales, is driving hard a message of hope, which is helping to change the image of false teeth and the people who wear them.

Mr Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng), says: "It's my experience that there are too many people putting up with ill-fitting dentures. With lips that are pinched, lower dentures with excessive mobility allowing food ingression between the plate and the gums, sore spots and teeth that do not function well, it's no wonder so many wearers feel at a loss in their search for solutions to their problems.

But the clinician, who has earned a country-wide reputation as a 'smile mechanic', is buoyant about the future for solutions with dentures.

He passionately embraces what her calls "the denture revolution" offering traditional denture wearers precise fittings with the latest injection moulding techniques and natural-looking teeth that are functional too.

"We desperately want people to know there is a solution for most problems. The clinic has a vast wealth of experience to draw upon and we promise to give as much time as people need to resolve issues with the best clinical outcomes," Mr Burchell adds.

IMPLANT RETAINED

A GROWING number of satisfied patients have found a renewed confidence by ditching their traditional dentures for implant retained dentures.

The procedure that became an established form of dentistry in the United States in recent years can now be carried out with the Denture Clinic – and the transition can mean new teeth, which can function just as if they were your own.

Fixed with small titanium screw-like mechanisms that are set, and eventually fused into the bone, they act an effective substitute for the roots of your missing teeth.

Implantologist, Mr Jon Pugh BDS MSc, with whom the clinic has a long-established working relationship, undertakes all the surgical procedures.

Research reveals that as little as two dental implants in the lower jaw will significantly stabilise the prosthetic. A similar procedure can secure the upper teeth, normally with four implant fixings.

The dentures can be snapped on and off their fixings by the patient and provide a guaranteed solution for stabilisation problems.

Advantages include a harmonious fit with gums, the possibility of improved speech and taste, natural chewing function and bite, no more tilting and the end of pressure spot discomfort, restored chewing ability, improved diet, the end of further jaw bone erosion and the smile of your dreams.

ALL-ON-4

A treatment pioneered in Portugal that offers denture wearers teeth that never have to be taken out for cleaning is arriving at the clinic in the New Year. Known as All-on-4, the system embraces implant technology with just four securing post supporting a titanium framework of teeth.

ULTRA SUCTION

The Ultra Suction system is suitable for both upper and lower prosthetics

Suction offers a new solution

A cutting-edge development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered at the Denture Clinic.

The invention has the potential to improve the life quality of patients who have previously experienced long-term problems with ill-fitting dentures.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the dentures.

A clever diaphragms principle, triggered by the bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Expectations

Mr Burchell, whose clinic attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The denture revolution is evolving at a pace. In recent times we have seen what I can only describe as strident steps forward with implant-retained dentures coming into main-stream dentistry, clever technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and now the Ultra Suction product.

"Implant dentistry is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference. The beauty of this technology from New Zealand is that it offers excellent denture retainer qualities without surgery.

"We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another tool in our commitment to always try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations," adds Mr Burchell.

Denture Clinic consultations also at Parkside Dental Practice, 7 Park Rd West, Wolverhampton, WV1 4PS

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BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** New Year's Eve Saturday Kitchen. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Formula 1: 2011 Season Review. **2.00** Film: The Pacifier. (2005) Comedy, with Vin Diesel. **3.30** A Question of Sport. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** Comic Relief 2011: What a Cracker. (R)

6.25 Winter Wipeout. Richard Hammond and Amanda Byram present a winter-themed version of Total Wipeout, which sees the contestants tackling an all-new snow-covered course.
7.25 FILM: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End. (2007) The swashbuckling rogues join forces with old foe Barbossa to rescue Captain Jack Sparrow from the land of the dead. Adventure sequel, with Johnny Depp.
10.00 BBC News; Weather.
10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Swansea City v Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United v Blackburn Rovers.
11.40 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. OJ Borg announces the all-important numbers.
11.50 New Year Live 2011. Jake Humphrey welcomes in 2012.

12.15 Lee Mack Going Out Live; National Lottery Update. **1.15** Michael McIntyre's Christmas Comedy Roadshow. (R) **2.15** Weatherview. **2.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.05** CBBC. **10.05** Film: Home on the Range. (2004) Disney animated comedy, with the voice of Roseanne Barr. **11.15** Film: First Daughter. (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Katie Holmes and Marc Blucas. **12.55** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.35** Film: Viva Knievel! (1977) Adventure, starring Evel Knievel and Lauren Hutton. **3.15** Springwatch Christmas Special. **4.45** Film: The Guns of Navarone. (1961) Second World War adventure, starring Gregory Peck.

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7.15 Flog It! From Stoke-on-Trent. (R)
8.00 Morecambe & Wise: The Show What Paul Merton Did. Paul Merton hosts a celebration of the comedy duo. (R)
9.00 Eric & Ernie. One-off drama about Morecambe and Wise's early years, from their meeting on the children's variety circuit to their first TV appearances. Victoria Wood and Jim Moir star. (R)
10.30 Parkinson, Morecambe & Wise. Michael Parkinson looks back at his 1972 interview with the comedy duo. (R)
11.15 Jools' Annual Hootenanny 2011. With Cyndi Lauper, Jessie J, James Morrison and the Vaccines.

1.30 Glastonbury Best Bits 2011. (R) **3.35** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **7.55** Film: Scooby-Doo and the Alien Invaders. (2000) Animated adventure, with the voice of Jeff Bennett. **9.25** Monk. **9.30** Horrid Henry. (R) **9.45** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! (R) **10.45** Coronation Street. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.45** Film: Pride and Prejudice. (2005) Period drama, starring Keira Knightley. **4.05** Film: The Queen. (2006) Oscar-winning biographical drama, starring Helen Mirren.

6.05 Regional Programmes.
6.15 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 Harry Hill's TV Burp Xmas Special. (R)
7.00 Westlife: For the Last Time. The boys perform their greatest hits in a farewell special. (R)
8.00 The Cube. Two more contestants take on the challenge. Last in the series.
9.00 Brand New It'll Be Alright on the Night 2. Selection of TV bloopers, presented by Griff Rhys Jones.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.

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10.15 The Nation's Favourite Bee Gees Song. (R)
11.45 ITV News and Countdown to 2012.

12.05 That Was 2011: The ITV News Review of the Year. **1.05** Film: The Blues Brothers. (1980) Comedy, starring John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd; ITV News Headlines. **3.20** In Plain Sight. (R) **4.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.55** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** GT Academy. **7.30** Extreme Sailing Series. **8.00** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. **9.25** T4: The Big Bang Theory. **9.50** T4: Shipwrecked: The Island. **10.50** T4: Beyoncé Live at Roseland. **11.55** Film: Three Men and a Baby. (1987) Comedy, starring Tom Selleck, Ted Danson and Steve Guttenberg. **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** The Simpsons. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.55** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.25 Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.55 Channel 4 News.
7.05 4thought.tv.
7.10 FILM: Porridge. (1979) Comedy spin-off from the TV series, with Ronnie Barker and Richard Beckinsale.

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9.00 Alan Carr's New Year Specstacular. With Jonathan Ross, David Walliams, Heston Blumenthal and JLS.
11.35 Rude Tube: Epic Christmas. Alex Zane presents the 50 greatest festive internet videos.

12.40 The Simpsons. **1.10** Film: Invasion of the Body Snatchers. (1956) Sci-fi thriller, starring Kevin McCarthy. **2.30** Southland. **3.15** St Elsewhere. (R) **4.05** Brave New World with Stephen Hawking. (R) **5.00** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **5.50** Sali Mali. (R) **5.55** The Hoobs. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Impossible? **11.00** World's Strongest Man 2011. (R) **12.00** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.55** Ben Hur. (R) **4.35** Film: 21. (2008) Premiere. Drama, starring Kevin Spacey.

6.55 5 News Weekend.
7.00 World's Strongest Man 2011. James Richardson and Caroline Pearce present heat five of the finals from Wingate University, North Carolina, where the line-up for the final was set to be decided.
8.00 TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks. A rundown of illusions that have stood the test of time on the small screen, featuring Penn and Teller, Derren Brown, David Blaine, Paul Daniels and new kid on the block Dynamo.
10.40 FILM: Up the Front. (1972) A cowardly footman is hypnotised into enlisting during the First World War, and ends up being tattooed with secret German plans. Comedy, starring Frankie Howerd and Zsa Zsa Gabor.

12.25 Comedy Kings: Best of Just for Laughs. With Dara O Briain, Jack Whitehall and Louis CK. (R) **12.50** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **4.00** Great Artists. Greek artist El Greco. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. British religious art. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. Historical spotlight on scenic counties in the UK. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. Shake has lots of fun with his new bike. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. Flash challenges Roary to a race. (R)

Digital

ITV2
3.45 Film: Free Willy (1993) **6.05** Film: The Polar Express (2004) **8.00** Film: Dante's Peak (1997) **10.00** Celebrity Juice: 2041 – A Juice Odyssey **11.00** Tweets of the Year

ITV3
3.45 Film: Arthur 2: On the Rocks (1988) **6.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.00** A Royal Year to Remember **8.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot

ITV4
1.20 Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) **4.00** Film: Horizons West (1952) **5.45** Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **8.00** Film: The Magnificent Seven Ride! (1972) **10.00** Film: Mad Max 2 (1981)

BBC THREE
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **9.00** Most Annoying People of 2011

BBC FOUR
7.00 Birmingham Royal Ballet's Cinderella **9.00** Motown at the BBC **10.00** Edinburgh Comedy Live **11.00** Charlie Brooker's 2011 Wipe

E4
3.30 Sorority Girls **4.35** Desperate Scousewives **5.35** Scrubs **6.35** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** Happy Endings **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Mean Girls (2004) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory

FILM4
3.10 The Lavender Hill Mob (1951) **4.50** The Three Musketeers (1993) **6.55** Footloose (1984) **9.00** Four Lions (2010) Four British Muslims form an incompetent terrorist cell and hatch a scheme to attack the London marathon. Chris Morris' satirical comedy, starring Rizwan Ahmed, Kayvan Novak, Nigel Lindsay, Adeel Akhtar, Arsher Ali, Preeya Kalidas and Julia Davis. **11.00** Rushmore (1999) A student causes chaos at a private school when he develops a crush on a teacher. Comedy drama, starring Jason Schwartzman and Bill Murray.

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New Year's Day

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BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.40** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** Winter Wipeout. (R) **11.00** Film: Mouse Hunt. (1997) Slapstick comedy, starring Lee Evans and Nathan Lane. **12.35** BBC News; Weather. **12.45** The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message. **12.50** Songs of Praise – New Year's Day Big Sing. **1.30** Film: Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit. (2005) Oscar-winning animated adventure, with the voice of Peter Sallis. **2.50** Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian. (2008) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Ben Barnes. **5.05** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** Film: Bolt. (2008) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of John Travolta.

7.00 EastEnders. Extended episode. Pat's friends and family gather by her bedside as her condition deteriorates rapidly – but the person she wants to see most of all, her son David, is not there.
8.10 Sherlock. New series. Holmes investigates a case of blackmail threatening to topple the monarchy – only to become engaged in a battle of wits with a woman as brilliant as himself.
9.40 Absolutely Fabulous. Edina tries to win Saffy's respect.
10.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.35 Adele Live at the Royal Albert Hall. Coverage of the singer in concert in September 2011.
11.35 FILM: Cold Mountain. (2003) Period drama, starring Nicole Kidman.

2.00 Weatherview. **2.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBBC. **9.55** Film: Gun Fury. (1953) Western, starring Rock Hudson. **11.15** New Year's Day Concert from Vienna 2012. **12.40** Film: Dean Spanley. (2008) Comedy, with Sam Neill, Peter O'Toole and Jeremy Northam. **2.15** Film: Force 10 from Navarone. (1978) Second World War adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford. **4.15** The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message. (R) **4.20** Film: The Eagle Has Landed. (1976) Adventure, with Michael Caine.

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6.30 You Have Been Watching – David Croft. A tribute to the TV comedy writer. (R)
7.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring puts the defence of the realm before personal pride, resulting in problems. Classic comedy with the Home Guard, with Arthur Lowe. (R)
8.00 Great Barrier Reef. New series. Monty Halls explores the Australian coral reef and the wildlife that inhabits it.
9.00 A History of Ancient Britain Special: Orkney's Stone Age Temple. A newly discovered 5,000-year-old temple on Orkney.
10.00 Match of the Day 2.
11.00 QI XL. (R)
11.45 FILM: Broken Flowers. (2005) Comedy drama, starring Bill Murray.

1.25 BBC News. **2.30** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.05** Film: Scooby-Doo and the Cyber Chase. (2001) Animated adventure, with the voice of Bob Bergen. **9.25** Film: Beethoven. (1991) Canine comedy, starring Charles Grodin. **11.00** Film: Licence to Kill. (1989) James Bond spy thriller, starring Timothy Dalton. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.40** Inspector Morse. (R) **3.45** Downton Abbey. (R) **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 New You've Been Framed Top 100 Kids! Harry Hill narrates a selection of camcorder calamities and viewers' mobile-phone footage from the archives, featuring messy eaters, troublesome teens and sibling rivalries.
7.00 FILM: Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince. (2009) Premiere. The wizard must uncover the secrets of Lord Voldemort's past to try to end his reign of terror. Fantasy, starring Daniel Radcliffe.
9.45 The Unforgettable John Thaw. A tribute to the much-loved actor.
10.45 ITV News; Weather.

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11.00 FILM: Analyze This. (1999) Comedy, starring Robert De Niro.

12.55 Premiership Rugby Union; ITV News Headlines. **1.50** Film: The Whole Ten Yards. (2004) **3.25** ITV Nightscreen. **5.55** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.20 The Hoobs. (R) **6.45** Film: The Land Before Time. (1988) Animated adventure, with the voice of Gabriel Damon. **8.00** Film: Arctic Tale. (2007) Premiere. Documentary on Arctic wildlife. **9.45** Film: The Bridge on the River Kwai. (1957) Oscar-winning Second World War drama, starring Alec Guinness. **12.50** Channel 4 Racing. **3.20** Film: True Grit. (1969) Western, starring John Wayne. **5.45** Channel 4 News. **5.55** 4thought.tv.

6.00 Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show.
7.00 Come Dine with Me. Sheila Whelan Duffy hosts the first dinner party in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.
8.00 The Hotel. New series. Documentary exploring life at the Grosvenor Hotel, Torquay.

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9.00 Bear's Wild Weekend with Jonathan Ross. Survival expert Bear Grylls takes the chat show host to little-known Canary Island La Palma, where they trek through dense jungle and walk down an active volcano.
10.00 Hacks.
11.05 Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2011. (R)

1.10 American Football Live. A match from the final weekend of the season. **4.45** Road to London 2012: That Paralympic Show. (R) **5.10** Post Modern Pastimes. (R) **5.25** Brothers & Sisters. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Igam Ogam. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Mio Mao. (R) **8.10** Olivia. (R) **8.25** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.30** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.40** Angelina Ballerina. **8.55** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.05** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **10.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **10.15** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.45** The Top 10 Aussie Soap Moments 2011. **11.45** World's Strongest Man 2011. (R) **12.45** Film: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. (1954) Musical Western, starring Howard Keel. **2.50** Film: The Wizard of Oz. (1939) Musical fantasy, starring Judy Garland. **4.55** Film: Return to Oz. (1985) Fantasy adventure, starring Fairuza Balk.

6.55 5 News Weekend.
7.00 World's Strongest Man 2011. The final from Wingate University, North Carolina.
8.00 An Audience with Dame Edna: 1980. (R)
9.15 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments of 2011. (R)

12.10 The Truth About Cheryl Cole. (R) **1.10** SuperCasino. **4.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **4.10** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.35** Divine Designs. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
2.45 Film: Richie Rich (1994) **4.45** Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **7.00** All Star Family Fortunes Christmas Special **8.00** The Cube Celebrity Special **9.00** Film: I Am Legend (2007) **11.00** Film: Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)

ITV3
3.50 Film: Carry On Camping (1969) **5.45** Film: Doc Hollywood (1991) **7.45** Lewis. A woman's murder is copied from the pages of a novel. **9.45** Film: Sophie's Choice (1982)

ITV4
3.20 Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) **6.00** Film: 633 Squadron (1964) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Nighthawks (1981) **11.00** Film: Coogan's Bluff (1968)

BBC THREE
7.00 Film: WALL.E (2008) **8.30** BURN.E **8.40** Pixar: 25 Magic Moments **9.40** Film: Ratatouille (2007) **11.20** EastEnders

BBC FOUR
7.00 New Year's Day Concert from Vienna 2012 **9.00** Film: Half a Sixpence (1967) **11.20** Come Bell Ringing with Charles Hazlewood

E4
3.45 Being Erica **4.40** Samantha Who? **5.10** Film: Black Knight (2001) **7.00** Film: Crocodile Dundee (1986) **9.00** World's Greatest Body Shockers – Part 1 **10.00** Tim Minchin: Ready for This? **11.45** PhoneShop

FILM4
2.10 Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **4.00** Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) **6.05** Transformers (2007) Sci-fi action adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox. **8.50** The Iron Lady Interview Special **9.00** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) A cocky teenager plays truant from school and spends the day dragging his friends into all manner of adventures in the big city. Comedy, with Matthew Broderick and Jennifer Grey. **11.00** Scary Movie (2000)

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Monday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** Wanted Down Under. **9.45** Homes Under the Hammer. **10.45** Saints and Scroungers. **11.30** Britain's Empty Homes. **12.00** Bargain Hunt. **12.45** BBC News; Weather. **1.00** Regional News; Weather. **1.10** Film: Race to Witch Mountain. (2009) **2.45** Film: Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit. (1993) **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Weather. **5.25** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **5.35** Celebrity Mastermind. **6.05** Film: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull. (2008) **8.00** EastEnders. **8.30** EastEnders: Farewell Pat. **9.00** The Royal Bodyguard. **9.30** Mrs Brown's Boys. **10.00** BBC News. **10.10** Regional News; Weather. **10.20** Match of the Day. **11.30** Film: Point Break. (1991) **1.25** Weatherview. **1.30** Sign Zone: Who Do You Think You Are? (R) **2.30** Holby City. (R) **3.30** MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) **4.00** You've Been Scammed. (R) **4.45** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **9.15** Film: Two Brothers. (2004) **10.55** Film: Win a Date with Tad Hamilton! (2004) **12.25** EastEnders. **3.00** Real Rescues. (R) **3.45** Flog It! **4.30** Perfection. **5.15** Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Great British Railway Journeys. **7.00** Baking Made Easy. (R) **7.30** A Question of Taste. **8.00** University Challenge. **8.30** An Island Parish. **9.00** Armando's Tale of Charles Dickens. **10.00** Film: Revolutionary Road. (2008) **11.50** Film: Hideous Kinky. (1998) **1.25** BBC News. **4.20** Close.

ITV1 **6.00** CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **7.55** Film: Clifford's Really Big Movie. (2005) **9.25** Film: Beethoven's 2nd. (1993) **11.00** You've Been Framed! (R) **11.30** Film: You've Got Mail. (1998) **1.45** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot. (R) **3.55** Film: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. (2001) **6.35** Regional News; Weather. **6.45** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Coronation Street. **8.00** Cornwall. **8.30** Coronation Street. **9.00** Endeavour. **11.00** ITV News; Weather. **11.15** Film: Die Another Day. (2002) **1.40** The Zone; ITV News. **3.35** ITV Nightscreen. **4.55** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **5.55** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.10** The Treacle People. (R) **6.20** The Hoobs. (R) **6.45** The Hoobs. (R) **7.10** Freshly Squeezed. **7.35** According to Jim. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.05** Frasier. (R) **9.35** Frasier. (R) **10.10** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.40** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.05** The Simpsons. (R) **11.40** The Simpsons. (R) **12.10** Film: Baby's Day Out. (1994) **2.00** Film: Von Ryan's Express. (1965) **4.15** Deal or No Deal. **5.15** Channel 4 News. **5.25** 4thought.tv. **5.30** The Simpsons. (R) **6.00** Hollyoaks. **6.30** The Channel 4 Mash Up. **6.35** The Million Pound Drop: The Channel 4 Mash Up. **6.55** Come Dine with Me – Made in Chelsea: The Channel 4 Mash Up. **7.30** Location, Location, Location: The Channel 4 Mash Up. **7.55** The Million Pound Drop: The Channel 4 Mash Up. **8.15** Come Dine with Me – Made in Chelsea: The Channel 4 Mash Up. **8.45** River Cottage: The Channel 4 Mash Up. **9.05** Countdown – 8 Out of 10 Cats: The Channel 4 Mash Up. **9.35** The Million Pound Drop: The Channel 4 Mash Up. **10.00** The Bank Job. **11.05** Comedy Showcase: The Angelos Neil Epithemiou Show. (R) **11.35** Random Acts. (R) **11.40** Hacks. (R) **12.45** Music on 4: Inputoutput. **1.00** No, No, No. (R) **1.05** Coming Up: Magic. (R) **1.30** Jon Snow's 2011. (R) **2.25** The Year the Earth Went Wild. (R) **3.20** Ozone. (R) **3.40** Brave New World with Stephen Hawking. (R) **4.35** St Elsewhere. (R) **5.25** Brothers & Sisters. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Inside Hollywood. **10.05** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.40** World's Strongest Man 2011. (R) **11.40** 5 News Lunchtime. **11.50** Film: Custer of the West. (1967) **2.35** Magic Beyond Words: The JK Rowling Story. **4.20** Film: The Slipper and the Rose. (1976) **7.00** The Hotel Inspector; (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** The Greatest Ever Carry On Films; (R) 5 News at 9. **9.00** Film: Hitch. (2005) Romantic comedy, starring Will Smith, Eva Mendes and Kevin James. Includes 5 News Update. **11.25** Film: I Still Know What You Did Last Summer. (1998) **1.20** SuperCasino. **4.05** Meals in Moments. (R) **4.15** Grey's Anatomy. **5.00** County Secrets. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Wanted Down Under. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Saints and Scroungers. **11.45** Britain's Empty Homes; BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Pointless. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** Celebrity Mastermind. **7.30** EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** Holby City. **9.00** Public Enemies. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather.; National Lottery Update. **10.35** Lee Mack Going Out Live. (R) **11.35** The Graham Norton Show. (R) **12.20** Weatherview. **12.25** Sign Zone: Frozen Planet. (R) **1.25** James May's Man Lab. (R) **2.25** MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) **3.25** You've Been Scammed. (R) **4.10** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.25** CBeebies. **11.50** Film: A Goofy Movie. (1995) Animated comedy, with the voice of Bill Farmer. **1.00** One Man and His Campervan. (R) **1.30** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Weakest Link. **3.00** Real Rescues. (R) **3.45** Flog It! **4.30** Perfection. **5.15** Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Great British Railway Journeys. **7.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **8.00** Weird Nature. **9.00** King George and Queen Mary: The Royals Who Rescued the Monarchy. **10.00** Have I Got Old News for You. (R) **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** Charlie Brooker's 2011 Wipe. (R) **12.20** BBC News. **4.15** Close.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **3.00** Lewis. (R) **4.59** Regional Weather. **5.00** The Chase. **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** River Monsters. **8.00** Celebrity Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?: New Year Special. **9.00** The Biggest Loser. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Film: American Pie Presents Band Camp. (2005) Comedy sequel, starring Tad Hilgenbrinck and Eugene Levy. **12.15** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.50** Crossing Jordan. (R) **3.35** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** Perfect Couples. **7.50** According to Jim. (R) **8.20** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.50** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.20** Frasier. (R) **9.55** Frasier. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Undercover Boss Australia. **11.55** Film: Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story. (2005) Family drama, starring Kurt Russell and Dakota Fanning. **1.50** Film: Casablanca. (1942) Romantic drama, starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Claude Rains. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** The Fat Fighters. **9.00** Accused: The 74 Stone Babysitter. **10.00** The Bank Job. **11.05** Felix and Murdo. (R) **11.40** The Armstrong & Miller Show – Best Bits. (R) **12.15** Random Acts. **12.20** Film: Kung Fu Hustle. (2004) **2.00** Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Body Building. (R) **2.05** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **2.30** Beach Volleyball. **3.25** Extreme Sailing Series. (R) **3.50** The Grid. **4.15** GT Academy. (R) **4.40** Brave New World with Stephen Hawking. (R) **5.30** Scrapheap Challenge. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.30** Monkey Life. (R) **11.00** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.00** 5 News Lunchtime. **12.10** Film: Apache Drums. (1951) **1.40** Film: Avenging Angel. (2007) **3.20** Film: Mystery Woman: Redemption. (2006) **5.00** 5 News at 5. **5.30** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **6.00** Eddie Stobart: Trucks, Trailers and Tinsel. (R) **6.55** 5 News. **7.00** Charley Boorman's Extreme Frontiers; (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** New Cowboy Builders; 5 News at 9. **9.00** Thirteen: Conspiracy. (R) **11.35** Bourne Identity: The True Story. (R) **12.35** Comedy Kings: Best of Just for Laughs. **1.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **4.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **5.00** County Secrets. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Wanted Down Under. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Saints and Scroungers. **11.45** Britain's Empty Homes; BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Pointless. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** Celebrity Mastermind. **7.30** Fake Britain; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** Countryfile; Weather for the Week Ahead. **9.00** Public Enemies. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. **10.45** Match of the Day. **11.45** Film: Tombstone. (1993) **1.45** Weatherview. **1.50** Sign Zone: World's Most Dangerous Roads. (R) **2.50** Bible's Buried Secrets. (R) **3.50** MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) **4.50** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.25** CBeebies. **11.30** Film: McCinsey's Island. (1998) **1.00** One Man and His Campervan. (R) **1.30** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Weakest Link. (R) **3.00** Real Rescues. (R) **3.45** Flog It! **4.30** Perfection. **5.15** Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Great British Railway Journeys. **7.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **8.00** Weird Nature. **9.00** King George and Queen Mary: The Royals Who Rescued the Monarchy. **10.00** Mock the Week – Again. (R) **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** Three Men Go to New England. (R) **12.20** An Island Parish. (R) **12.50** BBC News. **4.10** Close.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **3.00** Lewis. (R) **4.59** Regional Weather. **5.00** The Chase. **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Harry Hill's TV Burp. **8.00** Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) **10.10** ITV News; Weather. **10.40** Regional News; Weather. **10.45** Film: Practical Magic. (1998) **12.35** The Zone; ITV News. **2.40** Film: Balto 3: Wings of Change. (2004) **4.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.30** The Hoobs. (R) **6.55** The Hoobs. (R) **7.20** Freshly Squeezed. **7.50** Perfect Couples. **8.15** According to Jim. (R) **8.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.40** Frasier. (R) **10.15** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.40** Undercover Boss Australia. **11.40** Film: The Love Bug. (1968) Disney comedy, starring Dean Jones. **1.50** Film: Tobruk. (1967) Second World War adventure, starring George Peppard and Rock Hudson. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** How to Cook Like Heston. **8.30** The Fabulous Baker Brothers. **9.00** One Born Every Minute. **10.00** The Bank Job. **11.05** Random Acts. **11.10** Bear's Wild Weekend with Jonathan Ross. (R) **12.15** Music on 4: Launched at Red Bull Studios. **12.30** Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Introduces – Nicola Roberts. **12.45** Night Walking. (R) **12.50** Coming Up: Rough Skin. (R) **1.15** Strange Little Girls. (R) **1.30** Film: Highwaymen. (2004) Premiere. Horror, starring Jim Caviezel. **2.50** The Guides. (R) **3.05** Mummifying Alan: Egypt's Last Secret. (R) **4.35** Hugh's Fish Fight. (R) **5.30** Brothers & Sisters. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.20** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.50** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **11.50** 5 News Lunchtime. **11.55** Film: Six Black Horses. (1962) Western, starring Audie Murphy. **1.35** The Witches of Oz. (R) **3.15** Film: A Girl Like Me: The Gwen Araujo Story. (2006) Fact-based drama, starring Jan Pardo. **5.00** 5 News at 5. **5.30** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **6.00** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) **6.55** 5 News. **7.00** Charley Boorman's Extreme Frontiers; (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** Jaws: The True Story; (R) 5 News at 9. **9.00** Film: Beowulf. (2007); 5 News. **11.15** Film: Hollow Man 2. (2006) **1.05** Poker: The Big Game. **2.00** SuperCasino. **3.55** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **4.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **5.00** County Secrets. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Wanted Down Under. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Saints and Scroungers. **11.45** Britain's Empty Homes; BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Pointless. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** Celebrity Mastermind. **7.30** EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** Earthflight. **9.00** Public nemies. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Absolutely Fabulous. (R) **11.05** Film: Under the Tuscan Sun. (2003) Romantic comedy drama, with Diane Lane. **12.50** Skiing Weatherview. **12.55** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.55** Antiques Roadshow. (R) **2.55** Britain's Hidden Heritage. (R) **3.55** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.25** CBeebies. **11.30** Film: Darby O'Gill and the Little People. (1959) Disney fantasy, starring Sean Connery. **1.00** One Man and His Campervan. (R) **1.30** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Weakest Link. **3.00** Real Rescues. (R) **3.45** Flog It! **4.30** Perfection. **5.15** Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Great British Railway Journeys. **7.00** Great British Food Revival. (R) **7.30** Top Gear India Special. (R) **9.00** Wonderland: Meet Britain's Chinese Tiger Mums. **10.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** Three Men Go to New England. (R) **12.20** BBC News. **4.10** Close.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **3.00** Lewis. (R) **4.59** Regional Weather. **5.00** The Chase. **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Dying to Be Thin: Tonight. **8.00** Emmerdale. **8.30** Coronation Street. **9.00** Eternal Law. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Film: Tightrope. (1984) Thriller, starring Clint Eastwood. **12.40** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.40** Dying to Be Thin: Tonight. (R) **3.10** ITV Nightscreen. **4.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.15** Sali Mali. (R) **6.20** The Treacle People. (R) **6.30** The Hoobs. (R) **6.55** The Hoobs. (R) **7.20** Freshly Squeezed. **7.45** Perfect Couples. **8.10** According to Jim. (R) **8.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.35** Frasier. (R) **10.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.35** Undercover Boss Australia. **11.40** Film: A Challenge for Robin Hood. (1967) Action adventure, starring Barrie Ingham. **1.35** Film: The Cruel Sea. (1953) Second World War nautical adventure, starring Jack Hawkins. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** Location, Location, Location. **9.00** The Restoration Man. **10.00** The Bank Job. **11.05** Random Acts. **11.10** Accused: The 74 Stone Babysitter. (R) **12.15** Music on 4: Launched at Red Bull Studios. **12.30** Music on 4: Alex Zane Pops Out. (R) **1.00** Film: A Man Apart. (2003) Crime thriller, starring Vin Diesel. **2.50** Whatever Turns You On. (R) **2.55** Shooting Gallery. (R) **3.05** Soft. (R) **3.20** Attack of the Trip Advisors. (R) **4.15** Hugh's Fish Fight. (R) **5.10** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **5.55** Sali Mali. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.15** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.45** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **11.45** 5 News Lunchtime. **11.55** Film: Showdown at Abilene. (1956) Western, starring Jock Mahoney. **1.35** The Witches of Oz. (R) **3.15** Film: Devil Winds. (2003) Adventure, starring Jos Lando. **5.00** 5 News at 5. **5.30** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **6.00** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) **6.55** 5 News Update. **7.00** Charley Boorman's Extreme Frontiers; (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** Building the Ice Hotel; 5 News at 9. **9.00** Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch. **11.00** Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side. **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.55** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **4.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **5.00** County Secrets. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R)

Friday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Wanted Down Under. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Saints and Scroungers. **11.45** Britain's Empty Homes; BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Pointless. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** Celebrity Mastermind. **7.30** A Question of Sport; (R) BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** EastEnders. **8.30** The One Lenny Henry. **9.30** Holby City. **10.25** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** The Graham Norton Show. **11.20** The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. **11.30** Film: The Infidel. (2010) **1.10** Weatherview. **1.15** Sign Zone: Natural World: The Woman Who Swims With Killer Whales. (R) **2.15** James May's Man Lab. (R) **3.15** MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) **4.15** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.25** CBeebies. **11.30** Film: Stolen Summer. (2002) Drama, starring Aidan Quinn. **1.00** One Man and His Campervan. (R) **1.30** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Weakest Link. **3.00** Real Rescues. (R) **3.45** Flog It! **4.30** Perfection. **5.15** Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Great British Railway Journeys. **7.00** Great Barrier Reef. (R) **8.00** Mastermind. **8.30** Mastermind. **9.00** Sicily Unpacked. **10.00** QI. (R) **10.30** Newsnight. **11.00** Weather. **11.05** Film: 50 Dead Men Walking. (2008) Premiere. Fact-based thriller, starring Jim Sturgess. **12.55** Film: Beaufort. (2007) Premiere. Israeli war drama, starring Oshri Cohen. **2.55** BBC News. **3.35** Close.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **3.00** Lewis. (R) **4.59** Regional Weather. **5.00** The Chase. **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Coronation Street. **8.00** Safari Vet School. **8.30** Coronation Street. **9.00** Law & Order: UK. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** It'll Be Alright on the Night 2. (R) **11.35** Celebrity Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?: New Year Special. (R) **12.30** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.30** Film: Deliverance. (1972) Thriller, starring Burt Reynolds. **4.20** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.00** The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** Perfect Couples. **7.55** According to Jim. (R) **8.20** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.50** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.20** Frasier. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** Film: Hello, Dolly! (1969) Period musical, starring Barbra Streisand. **1.10** Film: Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Martin Balsam. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.25** 4thought.tv. **7.30** Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Special. **8.30** New Girl. **9.00** The Bank Job. **10.00** Rude Tube 2012. **12.05** Film: Big Trouble in Little China. (1986) Comedy fantasy adventure, starring Kurt Russell. **1.55** Random Acts. **2.00** Lucky Escape. (R) **2.05** My Name Is Earl. (R) **2.45** Hung. (R) **3.35** St Elsewhere. (R) **4.20** Hugh's Fish Fight. (R) **5.15** Brothers & Sisters. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.15** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.45** Monkey Life. (R) **11.15** 5 News Lunchtime. **11.25** Celebrity Big Brother: Launch Show. (R) **1.25** Magic Beyond Words: The JK Rowling Story. (R) **3.15** Film: Relative Stranger. (2009) Drama, starring Eriq La Salle. **5.00** 5 News at 5. **5.30** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **6.00** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) **6.55** 5 News. **7.00** Charley Boorman's Extreme Frontiers; (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** World's Toughest Trucker. New series. Eight drivers navigate treacherous roads; 5 News at 9. **9.00** Celebrity Big Brother. **10.00** Celebrity Wedding Planner. **11.00** Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side. **12.00** SuperCasino. **4.05** Motorsport Mundial. **4.30** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.55** County Secrets. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R)

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Cajun Chicken Breast with Grilled Tomato served with Chips and Peas £8.95
8oz Gammon, Egg or Pineapple served with Chips and Peas £8.95
Lamb Shank in Red Wine and Rosemary served with Minted Mash .. £9.95
Salmon Fillet in a tomato and Tarragon Sauce served with Saute Potatoes and Veg of the Day £9.95
Quorn Fillet served in a Creamy Mushroom Sauce served with Saute Potatoes and Veg of the Day (V) £9.95

2 Steak Meal Deal - 2 for £25.00

Including A Free Bottle Of Valencia Red Or White Wine
8oz Sirloin Steak, cooked to your liking served with Chips, Mushrooms, Onion Rings, Grilled Tomato and Peas £12.95
16oz T-Bone Steak, cooked to your liking served with Chips, Mushrooms, Onion Rings, Grilled Tomato and Peas £13.95
Surf and Turf 8oz Sirloin Steak cooked to your liking served with Scampi, Chips, Mushrooms, Onion Rings, Grilled Tomato and Peas £13.95
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Upgrade on all of our dishes to our Tasty Home Cut Chips for only 50p extra

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• Blue • CD • FSH 54 C2 1.4i FURIO £2995

• Black • Air Con • FSH 56 ASTRA 1.6 SXi £4995

• Silver • Air Con • FSH 55 Vectra 1.9 CDTi Estate £3995

• Blue • Leather • FSH 05 Jaguar X-Type 2.0 SE Est £5495

54 CITROEN C2 1.4i FURIO (M.O.S.) Blue Metallic, Black/Blue sports seats, elec windows, Citroen CD player, rear spoiler, coded bumpers, fogs, one owner, FSH £2995
55 CITROEN C2 1.4i FURIO Silver Metallic, Black/Blue sports seats, air con, elec windows, Citroen CD player, rear spoiler, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, FSH £3295
55 FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC Blue Metallic, Black/Grey interior, electric pack, Ford CD player, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, one owner, FSH £3495
54 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC GHIA 5-dr. Silver Metallic, Charcoal interior, air con, electric pack, Ford CD player, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys £2995
06 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCi (130) ZETEC ESTATE Blue Metallic, Charcoal interior, air con, electric pack, cruise, Ford CD player, roof rails, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, FSH £4495
55 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCi (130) GHIA 5-dr. Silver Metallic, air con, climate, electric pack, cruise, Ford/Sony Hi-fi, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, FSH £3495
05 JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0D SE ESTATE Blue Metallic, full Black leather, air con, digital climate, cruise, electric pack, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, FSH £5495
55 JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0D SPORT Grey Metallic, full Black leather, air con, digital climate, electric pack, coded bumpers, rear spoiler, fogs, alloys £4995
05 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 3.0 CRD LIMITED (AUTO) Black, Grey leather, air con, climate, cruise, electric pack, jeep CD player, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, FSH £8995
55 MG ZR 1.4 (105+) 3-dr. X-Power Grey, Black leather, factory sunroof, electric pack, CD player, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, 58k, FSH £2695
05 MG ZR (105+) 3-dr. X-Power Grey, Black leather, air con, electric pack, CD player, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, one owner, FSH £2495
04 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 CC QUICKSILVER Silver Metallic, air con, electric pack, power roof, CDplayer, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, 42k, FSH £3495
56 RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 EXTREME 3-dr. Black Metallic, Charcoal interior, electric pack, trip computer, CD player, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, low ins, FSH £3495
56 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SXi 3-dr. Factory Black, Charcoal, Sports Seats, air con, electric pack, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, one owner, FSH £4995
06 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 DESIGN 5-dr. Silver Metallic, half Black leather, air con, electric pack, CD player, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, 44k, FSH £4495
55 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CLUB 5-dr. Grey Metallic, Charcoal interior, air con, electric pack, CD player, coded bumpers, alloys, low ins, FSH £3795
55 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi 5-dr. Black, Charcoal interior, electric pack, CD player, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, low ins, 38k, FSH £3595
55 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi 3-dr. Grey Metallic, Charcoal interior, electric pack, CD player, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, low ins, 40k, FSH £3295
57 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi DESIGN ESTATE Black Metallic, half Black leather, air con, electrics, CD player, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, one owner, FSH £4695
55 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi BREEZE ESTATE Silver Metallic, Charcoal interior, air con, electrics, CD player, coded bumpers, fogs, alloys, demo and one owner, FSH £3995
03 VW BEETLE 1.6 Techno Blue, Charcoal interior, electrics, trip computer, CD player, coded bumpers, VW alloys, 56k, FSH £3795
54 VW POLO 1.2E 55 3-dr. Silver Metallic, Charcoal interior, electrics, CD player, coded bumpers, 48k, one owner, VW, FSH £3295

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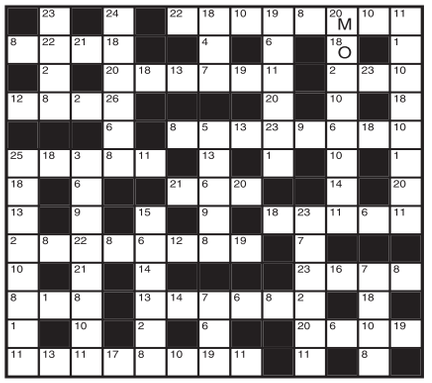
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18 O
6	19
7	20 M
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
R	F	N	A	H	D	S	T	Z	J	Y	P	W
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	K	E	G	L	C	M	Q	V	X	U	I	O

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. As transmitted, it signifies agreement (6)
4. Fighting doctor in a coat (6)
9. It means the end of a union (7,6)
10. It's right to punish (7)
11. Gives out wrong times (5)
12. Figures it's a game! (5)
14. The theatre gets a new production (5)
18. His work is above most people! (5)
19. See ice does make it (7)
21. Religious split? (6,2,5)
22. See air, perhaps? It's not so difficult! (6)
23. Trees evidently of some antiquity (6)

Down

1. He has a habit of taking things (6)
2. One must be patient with it for a long time.... (6,7)
3. ... and she might deal with your complaint! (5)
5. Be too self-indulgent (7)
6. Great ambition of the pyromaniac? (7,6)
7. He believes in new tithes (6)
8. Warms up for the opening races (5)
13. A race he organised gives pain to the listener (7)
15. Not likely to change horses (6)
16. Some glad donations to join to the list (3,2)
17. Gets engaged when he is in a bit of trouble (6)
20. Refuse from almost everybody (5)

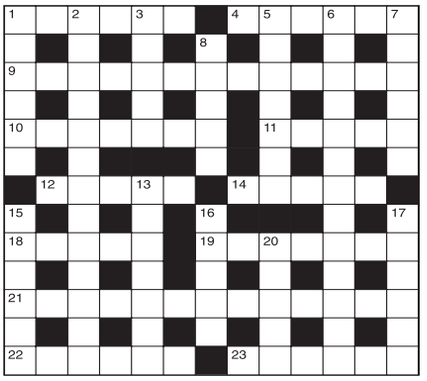
Quick Clues:

Across

1. Illegal compulsion (6)
4. Kidnap (6)
9. Espionage agency (6,7)
10. Left out (7)
11. Bury (5)
12. Throw (5)
14. Attractiveness (5)
18. Straggle (5)
19. Force out (7)
21. Premier (5,8)
22. Signify (6)
23. Vow (6)

Down

1. Autocrat (6)
2. Counter-charge (13)
3. Sugary (5)
5. Polish (7)
6. Continuous (13)
7. Abstract principle (6)
8. Privately (5)
13. Assemble (7)
15. Foolish (6)
16. Danger (5)
17. Extent (6)
20. Test (5)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Gipsy caravan; 7 Repel; 8 Tooth; 9 Spa; 10 Bay-window; 11 No more; 12 Hunter; 15 Grandiose; 17 Mat; 18 Mourn; 19 Erato; 21 Receptionist. Down: 1 Guessing game; 2 Yap; 3 Alleys; 4 Attribute; 5 Avoid; 6 The worst of it; 7 Realm; 10 Barn dance; 13 Tempo; 14 Covert; 16 Amuse; 20 Ago. QUICK - Across: 1 Christmas Eve; 7 Steer; 8 Nylon; 9 Rue; 10 Eliminate; 11 Length; 12 Fiscal; 15 On purpose; 17 Beg; 18 Extra; 19 Brawn; 21 Change course. Down: 1 Control tower; 2 See; 3 Margin; 4 Sensitive; 5 Villa; 6 Intelligible; 7 Stern; 10 Entertain; 13 Cabin; 14 Double; 16 Pitch; 20 Ado.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

	4			7		5		1
			4		2	8	7	
7	1			6			3	
	8			4				
1		5			6	7		3
				5	1		9	
	7			8		3		
	6	4	7		9			
3		8					6	

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	3	5	4	5	7	1	2	9
2	7	5	1	3	9	4	6	8
9	1	4	6	8	2	3	7	5
6	8	3	7	4	5	9	1	2
7	5	2	3	9	1	8	4	6
4	9	1	8	2	6	5	3	7
3	4	7	9	6	8	2	5	1
5	6	9	2	1	4	7	8	3
1	2	8	5	7	3	6	9	4

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is K. Kilkenny, Wicklow, Limerick, all counties of the

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56 Reg 207 Sport £4495 or £29 wk

07 Reg Citroen C4 £4195 or £28 wk

57 Reg Fiesta Climate £5195 or £33 wk

56 Reg Punto Active £3695 or £24 wk

58 Reg Megane 1.5 DCi £5695 or £36 wk

A SELECTION OF OUR STOCK

		Sale Price	Wkly Equiv
05 Reg	CITROEN BERLINGO 1.4i FORTE Beige. CD, 5-dr. Low Insurance Group 4, 42k	£3195	£21
07 Reg	CITROEN C4 1.6 SX Gold. A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, FSH, 33k	£4195	£28
55 Reg	CITROEN C4 1.6 VTR Red, A/C, Alloys, CD, 3-door. FSH, 49k.	£3495	£28
05 Reg	CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6 DESIRE MPV Silver, AC, CD, Insurance Grp 5	£3495	£23
56 Reg	FIAT PUNTO 1.2 DYNAMIC Grey, CD, 5-door. Ins Grp 3, 45k	£3495	£23
56 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE Red, alloys, CD, insurance group 2, 41k	£3695	£24
56 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE Red, CD, 5-door, Ins Grp 2, FSH, 47k	£3695	£24
56 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.4 ACTIVE SPORT Silver, Alloys, CD, 3-door, Ins Grp 3, FSH, 48k	£3695	£24
06 Reg	FORD KA 1.3i STYLE Silver, CD, Low Insurance Grp 3, 41k	£2695	£17
04 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.4 FLAME Orange, Alloys, CD	£2695	£17
06 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.25 STYLE Mauve, CD, 5 door, Low Ins Grp 4, FSH, 23k	£3695	£24
57 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC CLIMATE Mauve, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, Ins Grp 4, FSH, 23k	£5195	£33
08 Reg	FORD C-MAX 2.0 TDCi ZETEC MPV Silver, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD	£6995	£41
55 Reg	FORD STREET KA 1.6i RED Silver, Convertible, Red Leather, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£3195	£21
54 Reg	FORD STREET KA 1.6i LUXURY Grey, Convertible, Leather, A/C, Alloys, CD, 48k.	£2695	£17
55 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCi GHIA Silver, Diesel, AC,Alloys CD	£4495	£29
57 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCi ZETEC Silver, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD, FSH	£5195	£33
08 Reg	FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCi EDGE Silver, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH, 68k	£6995	£41
58 Reg	FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCi EDGE ESTATE Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 68k	£6995	£41
07 Reg	JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0D Grey, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£5695	£36
61 Reg	HYUNDAI 130 1.4 CLASSIC Black, Diesel, A/C, CD, 2k	£8495	£51
53 Reg	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 SE Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD Multi Changer	£2695	£17
04 Reg	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 S Gold, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3195	£21
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S Grey, A/C, CD, 5-door, FSH, 35k	£4495	£29
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SPORT Blue, A/C, CD, 5-door. 40k	£4495	£29
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SE Black A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, FSH, 34k	£4995	£32
08 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 VTi SPORT Yellow, A/C, Alloys, Cd, 5-door, 10k, FSH	£6195	£40
05 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 HDi 110 SPORT Silver, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD.	£3995	£26
55 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S Red, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 59k	£3695	£24
05 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 ENVY ESTATE Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD Panoramic roof	£3195	£19
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S AUTOMATIC Black, A/C, Alloys, CD, 48k	£3995	£26
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 HDi 110S Silver, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD, FSH.	£4195	£28
55 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S Black, 2006, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 37k	£3995	£26
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDi 136 GT Orange, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, Leather, FSH, 58k	£5695	£36
07 Reg	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 CAMPUS SPORT Blue, AC, Alloys, CD, Low Insurance Grp 3.	£3995	£26
56 Reg	RENAULT CLIO 1.6 DYNAMIQUE (New Shape), AC, Alloys, CD, 5-door, Low Ins Grp 3, FSH	£3995	£26
05 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 DYNAMIQUE Beige, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 41k	£3495	£23
05 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.9 DCi DYNAMIQUE Silver, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD, Panoramic Roof	£3195	£21
07 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 DYNAMIQUE Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 3-door. FSH	£3695	£24

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		Sale Price	Wkly Equiv
56 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 MAXIM Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 42k	£3995	£26
56 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi DYNAMIQUE Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, £30 Tax, FSH.	£4695	£30
58 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi TECH RUN DYNAMIQUE DIESEL Grey. A/C, Alloys, CD, £30 Tax, FSH.	£5695	£36
57 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi DYNAMIQUE Gold, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, £30 Tax, FSH, 41k	£5695	£36
06 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE Cabriolet. Silver, AC, Alloys, CD, Panoramic Roof, FSH.	£5695	£36
60 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE TOM TOM Grey, A/C, Alloys, CD, Sat Nav, FSH, 12k	£8995	£52
61 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi DYNAMIQUE TOM TOM Beige, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, Sat Nav, 5k	£10,995	£64
07 Reg	RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DCi DYNAMIQUE MPV Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH.	£4195	£28
57 Reg	RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DCi DYNAMIQUE MPV Gold, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD, FSH, 50l.	£4695	£30
04 Reg	ROVER STREETWISE 1.4SE /silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Leather Sports Seats	£1695	£12
05 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i CLUB EASYTRONIC Silver, Auto, A/C, Alloys, CD, 42k	£3195	£21
07 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi LIFE Silver, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH	£4495	£29
06 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i SXi COUPE Silver, A/C, CD, 3-door. FSH	£5195	£33
07 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i SXi Turquoise, air con, alloys, CD, FSH, 40k	£5195	£33
07 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi DESIGN Grey, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, Half Leather Seats, FSH.	£5195	£33
54 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi. Gold, AC, Alloys, CD, Low Ins Group 3	£3495	£23
54 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi. Blue, AC, Alloys, CD, Low Ins Gp 3	£3495	£23
55 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i SXi+. Silver, AC, Alloys, CD, Low Ins Grp 3, FSH	£3695	£24
56 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i SXi Silver, AC, Alloys, CD, 5-door, 30k.	£4195	£28
56 Reg	VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.8 EXCLUSIVE Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, Heated Leather Seats, FSH, 49k	£5195	£33
06 Reg	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8i VVT DESIGN Grey, A/C, Alloys, CD, Half Leather Sport Seats	£3995	£26
05 Reg	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi ENERGY Blue, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD.	£3995	£26
57 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 CLUB 7 seater. Silver, AC, Alloys, CD, FSH, 46k	£5995	£38
07 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 CLUB MPV Black, AC, CD, 7 seater, FSH, 30k	£5695	£36
56 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTi CLUB MPV Beige, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD, 7 seater, FSH.	£5695	£36
11 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 DESIGN MPV Black, A/C, Alloys, CD, Leather 7 seater, FSH, 10k	£9995	£58
55 Reg	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4 S Red, Diesel, AC, CD, FSH, 41k.	£5495	£35
06 Reg	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 S 55 Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4495	£29

PART EXCHANGES TO CLEAR

03 Reg	FORD MONDEO 1.8 LX Red, P/X to clear, MOT'd Feb 2012	£1695	na
Y Reg	VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 1.9 SE TDi Green, Diesel, P/X to clear, MOT'd March 2012	£1695	na
52 Reg	NISSAN ALMERA 1.5 Red, PX to clear, MOT'd April 2012	£1695	na
53 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDi LD White, Diesel, P/X to clear, MOT'd April 2012	£1995	na

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57 Reg Scenic 1.5 DCi £4695 or £30 wk

06 Reg Ford Ka Style £2695 or £17 wk

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Ferrari fanatic lifts the lid on fantastic 260 GTO

By Matt Joy

LIKE A magician about to reach the end of a complicated trick, Joe Macari stands next to a red Ferrari-emblazoned cover and pulls it back to reveal one of the most sought-after cars of all time.

"This," says Macari, "is the best example of its type I've ever seen."

Not only is Joe Macari a one-man encyclopaedia of all things Ferrari, he is also an accomplished racing driver and sits at the helm of Joe Macari Servicing, a purpose-built Ferrari service centre.

Under the roof of his west London address is every type of Ferrari ever built, and they are all waiting to have Macari and his army of highly trained engineers bestow their expertise upon them.

"If it were the real thing, it would be worth millions, but this re-creation is probably still worth at least £500,000," he says.

"There are replicas and then there are re-creations. The difference being that a 250 GTO replica will normally sit on a donor chassis while a re-creation uses the same parts Ferrari made the original 250 GTO with.

"Only 36 GTOs were ever built and each one of them was slightly different, and, like this one, were all based on a shortened 250 GT chassis."

Under the bonnet is a thoroughbred 3.0-litre V12 Ferrari engine, which has been bench tested and confirmed to have power output of 300bhp.

The A-arm front suspension, live-axle rear end and disc brakes are all to the exact 250 GTO specifications too, as is the rest of the car, including the Borrani wheels.

Sculptured

The body is perfect, too. It looks right in every respect; there are numerous air vents and slots which break up the smoothness of its beautifully sculptured body.

The flimsy chrome door handles and bonnet catches have come off a Ferrari from the same era, too.

The accuracy is even more vivid from behind the wheel. The polished aluminium gear lever is both functional and artistic, the thin wooden steering wheel seems enormous by modern-day standards yet remains a tactile piece of sculpture.

Then there's the noise. On start-up it lets out a gentle rumble, and then, as the revs increase, so does the V12 roar.

It's a deep, rich, textured sound which reverberates around the sparse cockpit.

And, like the car it so flawlessly mimics, it is far from perfect.

The genuine article was far from forgiving and took time to get the balance exactly right. It might be road-legal but its heart yearns to be on a race track, and when it was unleashed on the Goodwood race circuit, it came alive.

For a car of its age it still has an uncanny way of instilling the sort of confidence normally found in modern-day supercars – it allowed for so much more extra speed to be carried into and throughout every turn.

This 250 GTO may not have the sort of pedigree which will ever see it being coveted enough to achieve a multimillion-dollar price tag, but it absolutely and emphatically encapsulates the very ethos which made these Ferraris so prized.

Somehow half a million quid does seem very reasonable indeed.

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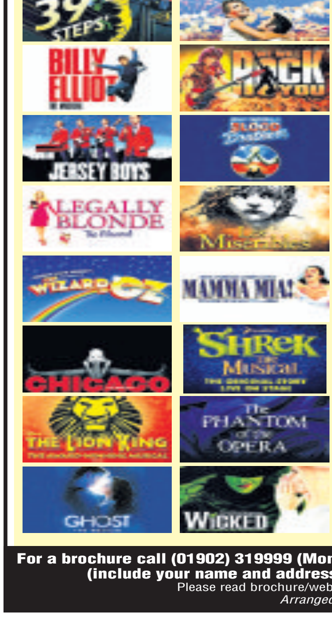

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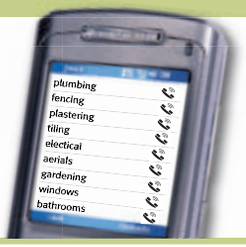

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Bargain buy? Fernando Torres

If you live to be 150, you might see this . . .

IT was the British scientist Aubrey De Gray who issued one of the more thought provoking sentences of 2011, ***writes Martin Swain***.

The University of Cambridge graduate said the first person who will live to see their 150th birthday has already been born. Even more incredibly, he claimed that the first person to live for 1,000 years will be born in the next two decades.

The British scientist sees a time when people will go to their doctors for regular 'maintenance', which by then will include gene therapies, stem cell therapies, immune stimulation and a range of other advanced techniques to keep them in good shape.

What, I wondered, will the 150-year-old football fan of tomorrow live to see? Here's five to begin with:

1. England win the World Cup: Maybe. It must be one of the great laments of this most financially successful era of the domestic game that international glory continues to elude the nation. A huge pity this.

Many will remember the invigorating buzz that electrified the country during the halcyon days of Euro 96; there are plenty of us still around who felt the extraordinary impact of 1966.

There may be many things wrong with our game, many factors for which it is justifiably resented in other parts of the world. But there is no doubt that the English remain one of the driving forces of football's march across the globe.

2. Fernando Torres score: Has there been anything more baffling than the collapse in this formerly brilliant striker's form since his move to Chelsea? It may be too late for him at Chelsea but he could be a brilliant signing – at an inevitably lesser price – for another club in the future.

3. The Baggies signing a player in Janu. . . sorry. Scrub that. Now we are getting a little far-fetched.

4. The fit and proper persons test actually applied. There is nothing more gullible, it appears, than a slightly desperate football club pining for a shot at glamour and subsequently seduced by an unknown name from a distant land turning up and promising fistfuls of the green stuff to finance their dreams.

But from Shiniwatra to Yeung, via any number of dodgy characters from the USSR's break-up not to mention the laughable Venky's at Blackburn, they invariably turn out to be chancers without a proverbial pot in which to take a comfort break.

5. Jeff Bonser putting in an appearance at Walsall: Or, at least, communicating with the his club's dwindling band of followers.

During the days before he shut himself off from the world, Bonser maintained he would never do anything to the detriment of Walsall FC. But, in case he hadn't noticed, Walsall FC is dying.

And it's on his watch.

He and his club, which enjoys a natural and broad affection among the region's football followers, need all the help they can muster.

Taking his ball home and locking himself in his room for a good sulk is, frankly, childish and serves only to endorse those who damn him.

Read Martin Swain every day in the Express & Star

Big Sam gets thumbs up for silencing Brady bunch

Chief Sports Writer Martin Swain takes a sideways look back on 2011 and gives out his awards

Outstanding Contribution to English Football

OK, so the Hammers faithful may be moaning about the football they're seeing – but it's all gone quiet down Upton Park thanks to Sam Allardyce.

Any man who can lay his hands on industrial-sized gaffer tape and stick it over the mouths of the unholy trinity of Gold, Sullivan and Brady deserves our praise.

The Ally McLeod Premature Triumphalism Ribbon

To be pinned on the lapels of Manchester United chief executive David Gill. "Yes, we can get a Barcelona or a Real Madrid, but I'm sure they don't want to play us in the last 16 either. At the end of the day, you never know what the draw is going to be," he said two weeks before a slightly more uncomfortable excursion to Switzerland than he imagined.

The Cameron-Sarkozy Entente Cordiale Award

To Marseille sporting director José Anigo following his words of advice for any budding French Ligue 1 talents dreaming of plying their trade in the Premier League: "Behind the 'big guns' like Chelsea or Manchester (United), there's also Sunderland or Wolverhampton. French players who are used to getting on the ball end up watching it fly over their heads for 90 minutes."

The People's Award (for saying stuff we like)

A big 'well done' to Everton goalkeeper Tim Howard, nominated from this Q&A session. Question: If you had supreme power, what's the first thing you would do to improve the Premier League?

Answer: Probably create a luxury tax. Not that that solves every problem, and I'm sure there's others that you can think of, but I think that would help."

Big Sam, above, has managed to silence the outspoken owners at West Ham while Wayne Rooney's award goes to Fulham's Bryan Ruiz

The 'Allo 'Allo Trophy

To Joe Cole after being ambushed by the Canal+ touchline reporter Laurent Paganelli after Lille's 3-1 win over Lyon: "Bon match pour… my team – mon équipe – et… I'm very happy!" He knew that French CSE grade four would come in handy some time.

The Wayne Bridge Award for Best Job in Football

For the third year in succession this award goes to...Wayne Bridge – £92,000 a week, people. That's right. £92,000. A week.

The Keane-Taggart Trophy for Old Comrades

German defender Philipp Lahm, looking back in his autobiography on Jurgen Klinsmann's reign as national manager in the 2006 World Cup: "The experiment with Klinsmann was a failure. We were only working on our fitness in training. He didn't care much for tactical stuff.

"It was up to the players to come together before a match and discuss how we were going to play. All the players knew after about eight weeks that it was not going to work out with Klinsmann.

The remainder of that campaign was nothing but limiting the damage."

The Kim Jong-il 'Dear Leader, Sun of Communist Future, Shining Star of Paektu Mountain' Trophy

To Angela Westwood, whose regular reports to the sportsdesk on the fortunes of Bridgnorth Town Colts Under-12s are genuinely appreciated. Less so is her job title: "Peripatetic Assessor/ Internal Verifier/Tutor Social Care and Health Training and Assessment Centre Learning, Employment and Training Services Learning and Skills Group, Shropshire Council…."

The Always Leave Some Wiggle Room Award, kindly sponsored for another year by Wayne 'Once a Blue, Always a Blue' Rooney

To Costa Rica international and £11m Fulham summer signing Bryan Ruiz.

"I didn't want to go to Fulham at all. I was happy with Tottenham's previous interest in me. They are a dream club and one you join without hesitation."Fulham came along on August 30 . . . I had my doubts again but attractive financial terms, and a talk with Martin Jol, dragged me over the line."

The next day: "As soon as Fulham's interest was apparent to me in the summer, and despite very public interest from other clubs, I was only ever intent on joining Fulham." Sure you were, pal; sure you were.

The Nick Clegg Brownnose Cup

Step forward Anfield hopeful Krisztian Adorjan, interviewed by Liverpool's website for the new season. Best ever player in your position?

"Our first-team boss, Kenny Dalglish and Zinedine Zidane. I always loved watching Zizou and have seen some DVDs of our manager and he was a fantastic footballer." Nice try, son.

The Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Award

"It was a win of human values, team spirit, solidarity, responsibility, strength of character, resilience."

Andre Villas-Boas invokes the spirit of the Allies prevailing in the Second World War to describe, err, Chelsea beating Valencia in a game of footy.

Calm down young man, calm down.

The Play School Trophy for Inappropriate Transfers

To Real Madrid for signing seven-year-old Argentinian dribbler Leonel Angel Coira.

The child didn't begin training with the Spanish giants until September, which means he's unlikely to feature in any of this season's El Clasicos.

Services to the British Tattoo Industry

To Birmingham resident Kirk Bradley, whose right arm is now preparing for its third dose of paint in celebration of his beloved Manchester City.

His first was done in 2009 and read: 'Manchester City 2011 Champions League Winners'.

That was a little previous, so he had it changed to 2012.

After the misadventure in Napoli, an undeterred Kirk prepared for further alterations: "It's going to happen one day," he said bravely.

Happy New Year all.

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Skipper fires in a winner for Stour

STOURBRIDGE ground out a victory at Redditch following a hard-fought contest in the Evo-Stik Southern Premier League.

In the 19th minute a right wing cross from Aaron Stringfellow was met by Jimmy Deabill whose header was saved by Lewis Solly.

A minute later at the other end, Aaron Drake slipped a short pass through to Sam Rock who curled a 20-yard shot wide.

The visitors had an escape on 25 minutes when a loose header from Nathan Bennett fell to the feet of Tom Berwick but Sam Smith produced a fine block.

Gary Hackett's men went close on 51 minutes when a right-wing corner from Sean Geddes enabled Bennett to get in a header that drew an unconvincing save from Dean Coleman before the ball was cleared to safety.

Stourbridge made the breakthrough with 61 minutes played. A left-wing corner from Drake was headed out to captain Ben Billingham who hit a low 25-yard shot through a crowd of players past Coleman.

Boosted by the goal, the Glassboys soon carved out further chances. A cross from Billingham picked out Drake whose goalbound volley was blocked well by Tesfa Robinson.

Redditch tried to respond with a lob from Lee Osborne saved by Solly.

Waite bags a hat-trick

NATHAN WAITE was Tipton's hat-trick hero as they strolled to a 6-0 Midland Alliance win at Willenhall.

His first arrived on 22 minutes when he touched a long throw-in home.

The Lockmen held out until seven minutes before the break when Waite again had a free header after Jack Austin had headed the initial effort off the line.

The hat-trick arrived on 44 minutes from another free header from another long throw.

On 59 minutes James Cooper burst through and dinked the ball over keeper Liam Flynn.

The fifth goal arrived on 76 minutes when another break down the right by Cooper saw him fire a ball into the six-yard box that Flynn half stopped but a deflection diverted it in.

Leigh Downing nipped in to score on 85 minutes.

Moxey fears the January sales will be tough

By Tim Nash

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Jez Moxey today revealed his doubts about Wolves' ability to cash in on the January sales.

Fringe strikers Andy Keogh and Leigh Griffiths are two players that the club are willing to sell next month.

The pair are on loan at Leeds and Hibernian respectively, but Wolves don't see the duo, or other players, attracting much interest based on enquiries they've had so far, combined with the economic climate.

"Apart from the really big clubs, no one seems to have any money," said Moxey. "The message we're getting is that there is very little money around in the marketplace. Outside of the really big clubs, I think we're seeing already the fact that not much money's going to be spent.

"I think it's a reflection of the economy generally."

Wolves, who have banked a modest £150,000 for young left back Scott Malone, are keen to cash in on Keogh, whose contract is up in June, and Griffiths, who hasn't started a Premier League game for the club he joined almost a year ago from Dundee for £150,000. Meanwhile, it has emerged that Wolves paid significantly more for Eggert Jonsson than the £250,000 initially estimated.

Wolves never disclose transfer fees and sources north of the border reported that Jonsson cost £250,000 plus add-ons.

But sources have confirmed the Iceland international, who was out of contract next summer, actually cost between £500,000-£750,000.

Moxey remains confident on Wolves' ability to attract players quickly next month, following the signing of Jonsson. "We did one before the transfer window and we're hoping we can sign more players too, as soon as possible," he added.

Moxey also dismissed any interest in Stoke striker Kenwyne Jones.

Wolves have been linked with a £5m move for the former Sunderland hitman when the window opens next month.

But Moxey said: "It's completely news to me."

Manager Mick McCarthy is understood to have around £4.5m to spend next month.

McCarthy wants a defensive midfielder and a centre-back to strengthen his squad.

ROBINS DENIED BY LATE SWANN GOAL

A CONTROVERSIAL late goal denied Dudley Town all three points in an entertaining 3-3 derby draw at title-chasing Gornal Athletic.

By Chris Davis

Dudley boss Andy Burgess was able to recall full back Steve Edmunds following the former Trysull man's recovery from a broken foot, whilst Dreniz Bala was unavailable. There was also a start for Ben Stretton following an ankle problem to face a Gornal – a side with no fewer than nine ex-Robins players in their starting XI.

It was the hosts, looking to close the gap on league leaders Black Country Rangers, who made an early breakthrough.

In the 40th second full-back Richard Young crossed, only to unintentionally beat Robins shot-stopper Jay Trevelan at his far post.

The visitors soaked up the early pressure and Ross Love had to be on fine form to deny Marvin Nisbett from close range.

Town eventually dragged themselves into the game as Niki Faux had Burgess' men first effort of the afternoon on 12 minutes. They were deservedly level on 17 when a Danny Ludlow corner beat a shaky-looking Gornal back four and Love duly obliged to head home.

Things may have got even better for Dudley on the half hour mark. Now firmly in control of the game Ant Cox broke free on the right hand wing and although his shot beat James Pemberton former Dudley skipper Chris Waterhouse was on hand to head the effort off the line.

It was certainly unfair at the break for Dudley to be behind as Mark Swann took advantage of the injury-hit Ross Love to break clean through and despite finding the fingers of Trevelan his shot squirmed into the net.

Following the restart it only took nine minutes for Dudley to be back on level terms. This time Cox broke free of the Gornal defence and with ease placed the ball past Pemberton for his first goal of the afternoon.

There were chances at each end and the visitors found the breakthrough with just 15 minutes to go. It appeared that Ben Stretton had given the Robins the lead although the ball had previously been handled on the line by Chris Waterhouse. After Waterhouse's dismissal Cox made no mistake from the spot to make it 3-2.

Despite a barrage of attacks from Gornal it appeared that Dudley had hung on to a well-earned three points. But following the referee's announcement of three additional minutes it was somewhat surprising when the game entered the 96th minute and Swann headed home a Lee Wherton corner from close range.

Dudley would have taken the point at the start of the day but came away from the game bitterly disappointed not to have taken all three.

However, denying rivals Gornal two key points in their title push will sit well with The Dell-based club.

Dudley Town goalkeeper Jay Trevelan punches clear under pressure from Gornal forwards. *Picture: Nigel Cliff*

Yeltz hit goal trail to see off Stourport

HALESOWEN eased to a 4-1 win over the Evo-Stik Southern Division One South & West basement side Stourport Swifts.

The home defence made a shaky start as Gareth Davies sliced the ball straight to Kevin Vogeli after just 30 seconds, but goalkeeper Paul Evans made a good blocking save against his former club.

As Halesowen settled, Lee Chilton squared the ball for Mark Smith to poke just wide.

Naveed Arshad put the Yeltz ahead in the 18th minute when he collected Justin Nisbett's high, hanging cross and forced the ball past keeper Hayden Whitcombe.

Halesowen doubled their lead after 35 minutes when Chilton made a speedy run down the left and his cross along goal was turned into his own net by former Yeltz centre-back Dennis Pearce.

Stourport's efforts on goal proved rare although Thomas Boyle hit a low raking drive just past Halesowen's half-time substitute goalkeeper Simon Flower early in the second period.

Arshad claimed his second goal in simple fashion by tapping home Nisbett's cross to make it 3-0 after 59 minutes. A delightful fourth goal followed 90 seconds later when Chilton picked his spot with a delicate chip.

Stourport registered an 80th-minute consolation through Louis Bridges from the penalty spot after Davies was penalised for handball.

Lloyd nets only goal

CAUSEWAY edged Tividale 1-0 in a scrappy Midland Alliance clash.

In the second half home keeper Tom Turner dropped the ball in the area and Chris Russell looked likely to score before he was upended by the goalkeeper.

But the expectant penalty did not materialise.

The game was settled in the 73rd minute when the ever-dangerous Aaron Lloyd latched on to a through ball and rounded a defender before slotting past the stranded Tim Beech.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, December 29, 2011.

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And, having recently celebrated their first, very successful year of trading in the Midlands, Managing Director Emma Leeke commented: "This winter we wanted to offer our customers something unmissable – and with more half price offers than ever before, I think we've succeeded."

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Hot looks for homes in 2012!

Jo Griffiths Interior Design Consultant at Leekes picks her highlights from the latest collections and shows you how to get the look for your lounge for less.

1. The Casa Pedro sofas are in this season's hottest shade of teal and great value at £899 for a three and two seater sofa set.
2. Make a real style statement with this silver Stella starburst clock; half price at £15.
3. Co-ordinate with these funky little table lamps available in ivory or teal - now half price at just £15 each.
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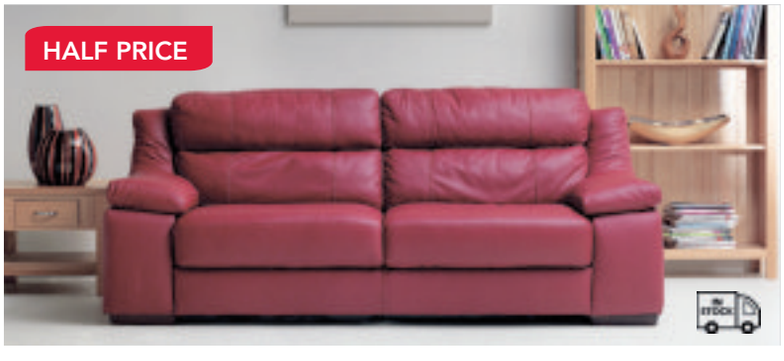

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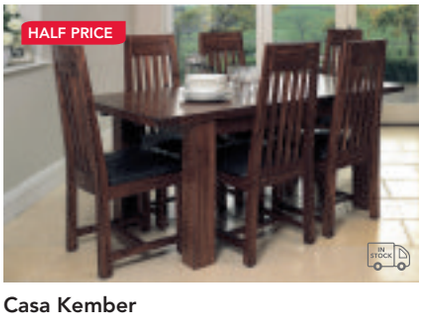

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There's more than you might expect at Leekes

With 35 departments over two floors and quite literally thousands of products to choose from, it's no wonder Leekes of Bilston is proving a popular destination.

With so much choice and variety, it really is worth taking the time to investigate just what is available in the West Midlands' largest new department store. You'll be surprised!

As well as the wide range of sofas, dining sets, beds and bedroom furniture available on the furniture floor and the state of the art kitchen, bathroom and conservatory studios, there is also a large range of accessories to provide your finishing touches and help you shop for everything you need, under one roof.

Store Manager Tony Squires sums up the Leekes approach: "We don't just sell bathrooms - but also the tiles, paint, towels, lights and accessories to complete your look; and this the case for every room in your home."

"You'll even find fitness equipment to kick start your new year regime and leisure clothing from leading brands like Animal, Weird Fish, Protest, Craghoppers, Regatta and O'Neill."

The store also offers a modern and comfortable café serving teas, coffees and a range of hot and cold snacks including freshly prepared sandwiches and baked potatoes.

Superb sale savings on these BIG brands

animal · Weird Fish · Regatta Great Outdoors · O'Neill · Craghoppers World Travel Clothing · Protest

Leekes home department store at Bilston

BIG savings on BIG brands too...

The G Plan Upholstery Studio offers the latest models with up to 30% off RRP.

Built to last, the beautiful Ercol cabinet collection is available at 25% off RRP.

The ultimate in sleep technology, a Tempur bed guarantees a good night's sleep with 25% off RRP.

Durable yet timeless, the Le Creuset collection is available at up to 20% off selected lines.

Enjoy up to 30% off the latest looks from the Animal autumn/winter collection.

Create your own sanctuary with the latest innovations from Jacuzzi - now 20% off RRP.

Why Leekes?

We like to think that being a family-owned business selling everything for the home all under one roof makes us unique, but there are lots of other reasons why we stand out from the crowd.

Flexible & Affordable Finance†

Flexible & Affordable Finance. From interest free credit with no deposit on selected items to low APR finance on conservatories.

Home Delivery Service

When we deliver your goods, we'll contact you on the morning of delivery with an estimated arrival time and unpack your goods, taking the packaging away for recycling.

Online Shopping

Thousands of items available to purchase at the click of a button at leekes.co.uk.

360° Complete Service

We like to help customers with every aspect of their home improvements. Ask about our free design, planning and project management service.

Price Promise*

Our commitment to offer the best price - supported by our money back guarantee.

For details of all our offers visit **leekes.co.uk**

Bilston Great Bridge Road, West Midlands WV14 8LB

Telephone **0845 050 8240**

*Conditions apply, see in store for details. †Finance subject to status terms and conditions apply.

Increase your living space with style

Extending or converting space in our homes rather than moving house is a trend that looks set to continue as the property market continues to stagnate. If you have a growing family and are in need of more living space, or you simply want somewhere to relax and escape from the day to day stresses of modern life, then a conservatory, orangery or glass veranda could be the perfect solution.

With over 100 years of history, Leekes is a family owned business that has been trusted by thousands of people to undertake their home improvement projects. With industry accredited Design Consultants and a constantly evolving range of styles and designs, Leekes can tailor make a solution to suit your needs and budget.

An orangery, with its partially solid construction and signature lantern style roof provides the perfect solution for a kitchen extension, dining room or multi purpose space in which to relax. By adding a large expanse of bi-folding doors or patio sliders across one aspect, you can enjoy easy access to your garden and truly invite the outdoors in.

Alternatively, Leekes offer a wide range of conservatories from the more traditional white or wood grain to a range of coloured foil finishes and even tiled roof options. Our 3m x 3m Casa conservatory starts from only £9,995.

For those looking for something a bit different, a glass veranda extension offers an all-weather alfresco style conservatory that can be entirely opened up with bi-fold doors or in-line sliders, complete with a weather protected outside space.

Leekes offer a full 360˚ service which includes design, obtaining all planning permission, project management, installation and a comprehensive 10 year guarantee. A full range of finance options is also available with deposits from just £100 and 7.9% APR representative.‡

The Casa conservatory – a fantastic new addition to your home

A Leekes orangery will be the envy of friends and neighbours

Bring the outside in with a glass veranda extension

An Orangery can offer a perfect combination of kitchen, dining and living space

Book your design appointment TODAY!

Arrange your FREE design consultation by calling 0845 050 8240 or book online at **leekes.co.uk/quote**

BIGGEST EVER HALF PRICE **sale**

RAK Reserva

Contemporary curved bath plus toilet with soft close seat and basin with pedestal (excludes brasswear)

Was £950 | **Sale £475**

Charles Rennie Mackintosh Framed Natural Oak

Solid oak framed cabinets with veneered centre panels

Sale | Half price cabinets**

FREE TILES

with every kitchen or bathroom order†

PLUS AN EXTRA **10%** BACK* IN STORE VOUCHERS ENDS THIS WEEKEND

Leekes Kitchens | Fact File

- Over 40 kitchens on display from leading brands including Rotpunkt, Sheraton, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Cusina and Casa
- Choose from hundreds of styles, colours and finishes
- Integrated appliances from leading brands including Neff, Caple, Stoves and Hotpoint
- Durable yet stylish worktops in granite, silestone, glass, wood, corian or maia
- Complete 360˚ design and installation service available

Leekes Bathrooms | Fact File

- Over 100 bathrooms and showers on display
- State of the art design and innovation from leading brands including Heritage, Jacuzzi, Kohler, Utopia, Roman, Daryl and more
- Stylish storage solutions and brassware available
- Coordinating bathroom accessories and tiles available to complete your look
- Complete 360˚ design and installation service available

Bilston
Great Bridge Road,
West Midlands.
WV14 8LB
Tel: **0845 050 8240**

Shop online at leekes.co.uk

Leekes You're home

*Conditions and minimum spend applies; Maximum £500 of vouchers on monies received, not order value. ** Discounts applies to doored cabinets only, excludes plumbing and electrics, ex-display and clearance lines. Discounts vary according to range. †Conditions apply, see in store for details. Free tiles from our promotional range to the value of 10% of total purchase up to a maximum of £750 in kitchens or £500 in bathrooms. ‡Finance is subject to status, conditions apply.